



99% Mumbaikars will now back the Coastal Road Project: Fadnavis  
page 7



Double life term for all 10 found guilty in Kevin murder case  
page 8



China's Communist Party mobilises against Hong Kong protests  
page 14

Nadal goes down fighting to Federer in the US Open first round  
page 20

## NEARBY



### Delhi govt. to expand ambit of free coaching

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi government will expand the ambit of its free entrance coaching programme, which currently applies only to Scheduled Caste students, to also cover students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, OBC and EWS quota of general categories, said sources.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

### Hawkers kill teacher for not buying headphones

NEW DELHI  
A 27-year-old madrasa teacher was beaten to death by two hawkers outside the Old Delhi railway station after he refused to buy a pair of headphones, the police said on Tuesday. The incident happened on Monday night when Mohammad Owais from Uttar Pradesh's Kandhla arrived at the railway station.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 15

# Questions on RBI's credibility outlandish, says Nirmala

Finance Minister slams criticism on transfer of surplus to exchequer

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PUNE

Any suggestions on the credibility of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are "outlandish", Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday, responding to criticism over the transfer of ₹1.76 lakh crore surplus from the central bank to the exchequer.

Speaking a day after the Central government's windfall from the RBI, she said the government was yet to decide on the deployment of the funds.

"I cannot comment right now on how these funds would be deployed. We will inform [the media] only after we have taken a decision," she said at a press briefing here.

Ms. Sitharaman and Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs Anurag Thakur were in the city for a meeting with tax officials, traders, entrepreneurs and industry experts on the issues related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

### Refutes Rahul

The Minister slammed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his remarks accusing the Narendra Modi government of "stealing" money from the RBI. "Whenever Congress MP Rahul Gandhi



**Stout defence:** Nirmala Sitharaman and Anurag Thakur addressing a press conference in Pune on Tuesday. ▶ PTI

has used words like *chori* and *chor* (thievery) [pertaining to the NDA government], a thing that comes to my mind is that though he tried his best to malign us using such words, the public has given him and his party a fitting reply," she said, and added that the Congress had no right to tarnish the RBI's reputation.

"Rahul Gandhi should first ask the erstwhile Finance Ministers and senior leaders of the Congress before hurling allegations of theft from the RBI at us ... but it appears he has become an expert at using words like *chor* and *chori*," the Finance Minister said.

Making it clear that she was not responding to any specific criticism, Ms. Sitharaman said that the Bimal Jalan committee on the economic capital framework included eminent experts, and it was constituted by the RBI itself and not by the government.

### Formula from panel

"It is worrying that a committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India is being questioned. The committee has had several sittings and has come out with a formula. It was appointed by the RBI, it had experts and they gave a formula, based on which the amount was arrived at," the Minister said.

"Now, any suggestions about the credibility of the RBI, therefore, for me seems a bit outlandish, considering that the committee was ap-

pointed by the Reserve Bank itself," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman further said the committee members themselves had given an explanation through the media that issues such as fiscal financial stability and the surplus to meet any emergency and contingency had all been factored in by the committee while coming up with its formula.

Responding to questions on the auto industry's demands for a GST rate cut, she said the GST rates were not in the Finance Ministry's domain, but that of the GST Council.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**  
**RAHUL ACCUSES GOVT. OF**  
**'STEALING' FROM RBI ▶ PAGE 12**  
**GIFT FROM RBI ▶ EDITORIAL**

## Jalan panel for periodic review

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Upset at being punished for dereliction of duty, a jawan shot his superior and killed himself at a camp in Pallavaram on the outskirts of Chennai.

The deceased were identified as rifleman Jagbeer Singh, 23, and havildar Praveen Kumar Joshi, 36, attached to the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles unit.

According to the police, on Monday night, there was an altercation between Singh, who was on quarter guard duty at the camp, and Joshi. Sources said Singh was pulled up for being careless as he reported late for duty. He was punished and ordered to do somersaults.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**Jawan kills**

**havildar, self in**

**Chennai camp**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**CHENNAI**

A 44-year-old caution from the Supreme Court, probably the only silver lining in one of the most controversial decisions of the court during the Emergency era, was ignored when the Delhi High Court refused to protect former Union Minister P. Chidambaram from arrest in the INX Media case on August 20.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi recalled the structure in the Supreme Court on Tuesday while arguing Mr. Chidambaram's appeal against arrest by the Enforcement Directorate.

He referred to the "infamous" Constitution Bench verdict in the *ADM Jabalpur* case of 1975, which upheld the State's right to suspend personal liberty under the

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**Family presses**

**for proof**

P. Chidambaram's family on Tuesday dared the Centre to produce evidence of any undisclosed bank account, property or shell companies and accused it of demonising the former Union Minister. ▶ PAGE 12

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12**

**Jawan kills**

**havildar, self in**

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**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

**CHENNAI**

found at different locations in the reserve forests.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorised it as Critically Endangered.

According to K. Raman, founder of IBF, "The spider was sighted way back in 1899 by Reginald Innes Pocock on the basis of a single female specimen in Gooty. About 102 years later this species has been recorded at degraded forest between Nandyal and Giddalur in the Eastern Ghats of Andhra Pradesh.

IUCN says on its website that it could not be said to occur naturally in Gooty, since it could have come from the Eastern Ghats at least 100 km away. S. Vimalraj, a wildlife

researcher said the species had so far not been sighted in any other part of India or Sri Lanka except its known habitat in Andhra Pradesh.

**Not surveyed before**

According to Zeeshan A.

Mirza, Researcher at

National Centre for

Biological Sciences (NCBS),

Bengaluru, "This is an

interesting find as this area

has never been surveyed

before. Species of this

genus can be identified

based on the banding

patterns on the underside

of the legs. Tarantulas are

biological pest controllers

and there is a huge demand

for them by collectors in

the pet trade. There is an

urgent need to protect

them."

**Unusual home:** The spider was sighted in the Pakkamalai reserve forests near Gingee. ▶ P. ARAVIND AATHI

researchers involved in field work in the reserve forests recently when they sighted a Gooty Tarantula (*Poecilotheria metallica*) resting in a cave. The species, known to be endemic to India, was

matched with photographic evidence published by the Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society. The species, known to be endemic to India, was

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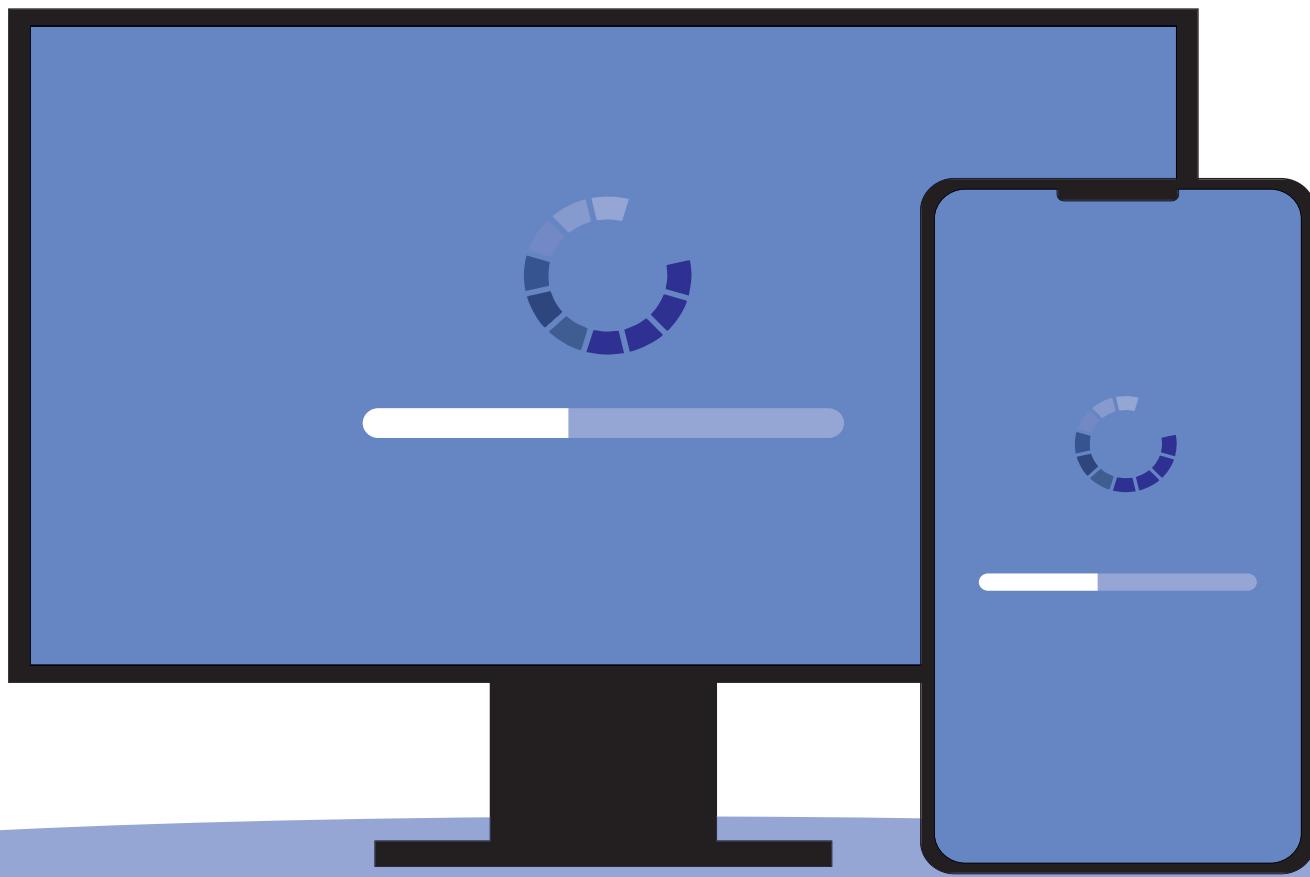
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**Unusual home:** The spider was sighted in the

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF DELHI

**All online services of Delhi Jal Board  
will remain closed between August 23 to August 30  
for enhancing the efficiency of Water Billing System**



- For improving the efficiency of Revenue Management System (RMS), DJB is moving to an Upgraded System.
- Due to this migration activity all online services like online viewing and payment of water bills/ applying for new connection/ cash counter etc will not be available from 23-08-2019 to 30-08-2019
- Bill Payment due dates during this period will automatically stand extended upto 09-09-2019 without Late Payment Surcharge.
- Offline activities in Zonal Revenue Offices will continue during this period. Consumers can make payment of water bills at the kiosks available at Zonal Revenue Offices.
- For more information please contact 1916 (toll free)

**INCONVENIENCE CAUSED DUE TO THIS IMPORTANT  
RMS UPGRADATION WORK IS REGRETTED**

IN BRIEF



Duo held for supplying arms to criminals

NEW DELHI  
Two men have been arrested for allegedly supplying arms to criminals in Delhi-NCR, the police said on Tuesday. Twenty-three pistols and 50 cartridges have been recovered from Akshay Adhawade and Chandpasha Seikh, both from Pune, said DCP (Special Cell) P.S. Kushwah.

Fire breaks out at popcorn factory

NEW DELHI  
A fire broke out at a popcorn factory in Bawana on Tuesday, said fire officials. No casualties have been reported. The fire department said the fire broke out at 2 p.m. and was brought under control by 5.30 p.m. by 10 firemen. The cause of the blaze is yet to be ascertained, said a fire officer.

## Mob thrashes teenager over suspicion of theft

'Victim was plucking a leaf at that time'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
A teenager was thrashed by a group of people over suspicion of theft in north Delhi's Burari, the police said on Tuesday.

Aditya was heading home in Burari's Sami Nagar after visiting a temple on August 24 when he was chased by a group of people and then thrashed, they said.

"The boy is currently undergoing treatment in the intensive care unit of a hospital. He has received severe injuries on head and other parts," said an officer. The victim's friends, who were with him at that time, allegedly told the police while walking home, they noticed a tree and were having a discussion on its identity.

To prove his point, Aditya jumped and plucked a leaf from the tree. On seeing this, two persons who were sitting inside a car came out and accused Aditya of committing theft. They tried to pull him inside the vehicle but he managed to run away. However, the accused chased and caught hold of him.

"The two men started thrashing Aditya by shouting

## Govt. to expand ambit of free entrance coaching to poor

Under the scheme, four students secured admission in esteemed institutes

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will expand the ambit of its free entrance coaching programme, which currently applies only to Scheduled Caste students, to also cover students belonging to Scheduled Tribe, OBC, and EWS quota in the general category, said sources.

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam told *The Hindu*, "The decision regarding the extension of the scheme will be passed by the Delhi Cabinet in its next meeting later this week."

The maximum fee that the government pays to private coaching institutions will also be increased from ₹80,000 to ₹1.5 lakh, said sources. The duration of the

**C** The decision regarding the extension of the scheme will be passed by the Delhi Cabinet in its next meeting later this week  
RAJENDRA PAL GAUTAM, Social Welfare Minister



coaching will also be extended from six months to one year. During 2018-19, nearly 35 students who took received the free coaching qualified for the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) and National Eligibility-cum-

Entrance Test (NEET), said the government.

"From these 35 students, 13 qualified in JEE MAIN and 22 in NEET. Till date, four students have secured admission in IIT-Delhi, NSUT Delhi, NIT Delhi and BAMS, BHU," Mr. Gautam had said.

Under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, the government currently pays eight coaching institutes. Apart from this, a monthly stipend of ₹2,500 is given to each student.

Various tests

Free coaching is provided to those preparing for various exams conducted by the UPSC, DSSSB, SSC, Railway Recruitment Board and examinations of officers grade conducted by banks and in-

surance companies and for medicine and engineering.

Around 5,000 SC students were enrolled for coaching for different competitive exams in the first year of the scheme, which was launched in 2018.

The government has already conducted a meeting with coaching centres, including Akash, Chanakya, Nirvana, Time, Khan Study Group and Pahuj Law Academy, among others and will increase the number of institutes.

Ahead of the Assembly elections, scheduled for February 2020, the government – over the last three months – has announced free rides to women in metro and buses, free electricity up to 200 units, and also waived arrears on water bills.

## Hawkers kill teacher for not buying pair of headphones

Fight ensued over the price of product outside railway station

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 27-year-old madrasa teacher was beaten to death by two hawkers outside Old Delhi railway station after he refused to buy a pair of headphones, the police said on Tuesday.

The incident was reported on Monday night when Mohammad Owais from Uttar Pradesh's Kandhla arrived at the railway station.

When he got out, a man selling mobile accessories approached him.

Owais asked him the price of a pair of headphones after which he left without buying the accessory.

The hawker started abusing when Owais asked him to stay away.

The accused then called another hawker and they

**C** The hawker [accused] abused Owais for not buying the mobile accessory. He then called another hawker and they started beating the victim till he fell unconscious  
DELHI POLICE

broke out after an argument ensued between the two sides over the price of a pair of headphones.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Harendra Singh said the accused – Lallan and Ayub alias Sarfraz – were arrested within a few hours of the incident.

"We are getting details about their backgrounds to find out if they have been involved in any criminal case. We have registered a case under Section 304 [culpable homicide not amounting to murder] under the IPC. The body has been handed over to his family," said Mr. Singh.

The police said they will call for a special drive against the unauthorised hawkers outside railway and bus stations.

'Victim was plucking a leaf at that time'



An officer with the victim after the incident in Sant Nagar. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Article 370 was a blot, its abrogation will bring peace: Khattar

BJP once considered 'untouchable' has now become 'a favourite', says Haryana Chief Minister during yatra in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, was "blot" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah had amended within 70 days into their second term.

He added that the amendment of Article 370 would bring peace to the Valley and no more soldiers would be killed. Mr. Khattar was addressing a gathering at Jhund Sarai village as his 22-day-long Statewide 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' entered Gurugram.

Accompanied by local MLA and Haryana PWD Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Mr. Khattar said his party had never compromised on nationalism and with the air strikes in Balakot in the aftermath of Pulwama attack the masses were reassured that "the saviour of the country has arrived".

Referring to Opposition leaders joining the BJP in Haryana in the run-up to the Assembly elections due in October, Mr. Khattar said the same party which was considered "untouchable" had now become "a favourite" and leaders of all political parties were rushing to join.



Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar with BJP national working president J.P. Nadda in Gurugram. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

Yogi [Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath], he said, referring to the single status of the trio.

To serve people

He said the Opposition leaders mocked him for being inexperienced when BJP came to power in the State in 2014, but their shops were now shut. "Their aim was to amass wealth and indulge in corruption. We did not have the experience in corruption, but we had more than 40 years of experience to serve the people," he added.

Earlier, Mr. Khattar, at a meeting in Pataudi, said his party had run the govern-

ment with honesty and transparency whereas the senior-most leaders of the Opposition parties were under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation.

He said Congress leader P. Chidambaram allegedly had property in a dozen countries and a senior leader in Haryana was under CBI scanner while another was already in jail for 10 years.

Mr. Khattar had kicked off 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra', in Panchkula earlier this month in view of the forthcoming assembly elections and reach all the 90 assemblies of the State till September 8.

## Illicit liquor worth ₹50L seized in Greater Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

The police claimed to have seized around 250 cartons of illicit liquor worth ₹50 lakh in Greater Noida, said officials on Tuesday.

**Driver on the run**  
The liquor, which was marked for sale in Arunachal Pradesh, was being transported in a canter

truck on Monday night, they said.

The Delhi-registered truck was intercepted near Badarpur for checking. The driver fled the spot," an officer said.

A manhunt is on for the driver, Dharamveer, from Haryana's Rohtak, the police said, adding that a case has been registered under the Excise Act.

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Two persons have been arrested for allegedly killing a 25-year-old man as one of them suspected him of having an affair with his niece, the police said on Tuesday.

Pramod (20) from Haryana's Jhajjar and Prakash (22), a resident of Delhi's Najaf-

garh, were nabbed on Monday from Dwarka while the third accused is absconding, they said. On August 20, the trio invited Ankit, a distant relative of Pramod, for a party and took him to Baghpat Industrial area in Uttar Pradesh where they shot him in the forehead and burnt his face to conceal his identity.

Acting on a tip-off, Pramod and Prakash were nabbed and two loaded countrymade pistols were recovered from

Three days later, the partially burnt body of the victim was found at an isolated place in Niwara. As the body could not be identified, it was preserved in the hospital, the police said.

Pramod said he suspected Ankit of having an affair with his niece and hatched a plan to eliminate him. He roped in two of his associates, including Prakash, who arranged for the pistols, the DCP said. Further investigation is under way, the police added.

them, said DCP (Dwarka) Anil Alphonse.

Pramod said he suspected Ankit of having an affair with his niece and hatched a plan to eliminate him. He roped in two of his associates, including Prakash, who arranged for the pistols, the DCP said.

Four of them – Chandan Rai, Udit Goyal, Nitesh Pandey and Sushil Pandit – have been remanded in police custody. "Mr. Rai had got in touch with me because I

am active in politics and promised to help by getting me positive publicity, building my image to help my political career using his media influence," said complainant Hitesh Tyagi.

"He took ₹1.50 lakh from me for that but did nothing. When I asked him, he said he was facing political problems and sought another ₹2 lakh for the job. Mr. Rai also took money from me, saying I should have a weapon licence and he can get it

done easily because he was in touch with the District Magistrate. Overall, he took ₹5 lakh from me," he alleged. Mr. Tyagi said he recently got to know about the arrest of the four journalists after which he decided to approach the police, said an officer.

The district police had on August 24 booked five journalists including Mr. Rai under the Gangsters Act for allegedly posting "motivated content" on their news portals with an intention to malign the image of government officials, especially policemen.

An FIR under Sections 406 (criminal breach of trust) and 420 (fraud) of the IPC had been registered against Mr. Rai, the police added.

## Fire breaks out at DCW office

No casualties reported; many files were lost in blaze: Maliwal

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A fire broke out on the second floor of Delhi Commission for Women office at Vikas Bhawan in Central Delhi on Tuesday evening, said officials.

No injuries were reported, a fire official said, adding that a call was made at 6.15 p.m. after which seven fire tenders were pressed into service.

**Short circuit in AC**  
"The blaze was doused by 7.15 p.m. It is suspected to have been caused by a short circuit in an air conditioner in the conference room," the officer said. Around 20 people were present inside the building at the time, he added.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal



thanked the police and the fire department officials. "DCW office caught fire. Nobody got hurt but a lot of files got burnt. There was loss of property. The DCW team saved people with understanding and stayed on

## Sonia, Chacko discuss new Delhi unit chief

Brush aside names in media reports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Congress interim president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday met AICC in-charge of Delhi P.C. Chacko and district presidents to discuss the selection of a new chief for their city unit.

The Delhi Congress president post has been lying vacant after the demise of Sheila Dikshit last month. The selection of a new president was discussed in the meeting, Mr. Chacko said. "The Congress chief instructed me to take feedback of senior party leaders, including former Delhi unit presidents and MPs, to find the right person for the post," he said.

Ms. Sonia held separate

meetings with Mr. Chacko and presidents of district Congress units. "Besides me, district Congress presidents also met Sonia ji," he said, adding that he would again meet her after taking feedback in the next few days.

Mr. Chacko rejected media reports suggesting names of Navjot Singh Sidhu and Shatrughan Sinha as probable for the post. "Such reports are mere conjectures. The next Delhi Congress president will be from Delhi," he said.

The Congress is endeavouring to select a suitable

THE HINDU

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**MBBS ADMISSIONS - STRAY VACANCY ROUND**

# Delhi is prepared!

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Dip/Shaibdarth/D/0104/19-20



10 हफ्ते  
10 बजे  
10 मिनट

Every Sunday



दिल्ली कर दिखाएगी

दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

Health Department, Government of NCT of Delhi

DELHI	Timings
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 28	
RISE 05:57 SET 18:48	
RISE 03:13 SET 17:22	
THURSDAY, AUG. 29	
RISE 05:58 SET 18:47	
RISE 04:21 SET 18:14	
FRIDAY, AUG. 30	
RISE 05:58 SET 18:45	
RISE 05:31 SET 19:01	

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	37 27
Safdarjung	37 27
Palam	37 27

Delhi Palam Today  
36°C A haze and humid morning. Day will be warm with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
36°C Dry and warm weather with partly cloudy sky continue.

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## IN BRIEF

### Noida girls create app, win tech prize in U.S.

Noida  
Five girls have developed a mobile app that connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes, with their innovation fetching them a bronze medal at global tech competition in the US. The app, Maitri, was developed by Ananya Grover, Vanshika Yadav, Vasudha Sudhinder, Anushka Sharma and Aarefa, of Amity International School, PTI

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	117	Gurugram	46
Ghaziabad	109	Faridabad	45
Noida	77	Greater Noida	120
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	201-400
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY  
(AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB

### DELHI TODAY

Talk: Prof. M.G.K. Menon Memorial Lecture 2019: "Can India become a Global Leader in Science?" by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, Linus Pauling Research Professor and Honorary President of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, at C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, India International Centre (IIC), 6.30 p.m.

Talk: Lecture on 'A.K. Coomarawamy's Contribution to the Indian Art' by Dr. Vipul Tiwari at lecture hall, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), 11, Mansingh Road, 7 p.m.

MUSIC: Dhrupad Festival in memory of late Pandit Kshetrapal Mallick will feature a Dhrupad recital by Pt. Jagat Narayan Pathak Mallick, Darbhanga Gharana, followed by a Dhrupad vocal by Pt. Gokulotapash Maharan at India Habitat Centre, 7 p.m.

Exhibition: "Divine Intervention", a solo painting exhibition by Sangeeta Kumar Murthy at India Habitat Centre, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

(Mail your listings for this column at cityeditordelhi@thehindu.co.in)

## Hearing on pleas seeking uniform civil code adjourned

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of two petitions seeking its directions for drafting a Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The first petition, filed by Bharatiya Janata Party leader and lawyer Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, has sought directions for drafting a UCC to promote unity, fraternity and national integration.

The court had on May 31 issued notice to the Centre seeking its response to Mr. Upadhyay's plea.

The petition has been opposed by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, which has filed an application to be impleaded as a party in the matter, claiming that the plea was not maintainable in law and ought not to be entertained.

A fresh petition by advocate Abhinav Beri has sought a direction to the Centre to constitute a judicial commission or a high-level expert committee to draft a UCC for securing gender justice, equality and dignity of women.

A UCC would replace the personal laws, based on the scriptures and customs of various religions, with a common set of rules.

# CM announces waiver of water bill arrears, surcharge

Kejriwal says scheme will bring more households under billing network

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday announced a waiver for arrears of water bills and Late Payment Surcharge (LPSC). He said the move was intended to bring more consumers into the billing network through functional water meters in all households across the Capital.

According to Mr. Kejriwal, the principal rebate would be extended to households categorised from A to H; while households categorised under E, F, G and H will get 100% rebate, households under D will get 75%, C will get 50% and A and B will get 25% waiver on the principal amount of water arrears.

**Eligible consumers**  
Mr. Kejriwal said there were 70,082 consumers under the A and B categories, 76,425 consumers under the C category, 3,44,271 consumers under the D category and 17,69,981 consumers under the E, F, G and H categories.

The LPSC waiver will apply to consumers from all categories, the Chief Minister said, adding that for com-



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

mercial connections, the LPSC will be waived off, but the principal amount, up to March 31 this year, needed to be paid in three instalments before November 30, 2019.

### Wrong metering

"This scheme will help the Delhi Jal Board [DJB] increase its revenue by ₹600 crore through the recovery of arrears. With this scheme, artificial arrears and wrong metering will be a story of the past. I will write to all customers to encourage them to be part of the mainstream," the CM said at a press conference here.

"The scheme that brings

more households to the billing network, along with the enhanced billing efficiency, will improve the financial management of the DJB which has achieved 95% of the billing efficiency from 80% and expected to increase the same to 98% very soon," he said further.

According to the Chief Minister, the Delhi government had undertaken the distribution of tabs for all meter readers enabling them to take photos with location identification which, he said, not only compelled the meter readers to go to the spot but also enabled the computerisation of the entire system.

**This scheme will help the Delhi Jal Board increase its revenue by ₹600 crore through the recovery of arrears**

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister

Now, he explained, the arrears had accumulated at the consumers' end and reflected in bill books.

The reasons for this, he said, could be due to limitations of the billing system such as wrong bills, not getting bills or instances of billing without reading the meter or even wilful default.

### 13.5 lakh consumers

"There are nearly 13.5 lakh consumers with arrears to the tune of ₹2,500 crore in the domestic category and ₹1,500 crore in the commercial category. For installing functional water meters, seven agencies already empanelled by the Delhi Jal Board may be approached. Once the installation is complete, the category certificate [A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H] may be produced and the rebate will be automatically implemented," he said.

## BJP, Cong. accuse govt. of trying to 'buy votes'

Opposition raises questions over supply

crores of rupees as arrears

with a fine of ₹1 lakh on him.

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Virender Gupta asked the Aam Aadmi Party government to bring out a White Paper on water supply in the city and alleged that the announcement was made after the Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year.

Mr. Kejriwal said the ruling AAP was trying to "mislead" people as the supply of water in many areas was "substandard".

"Had this announcement been made by a couple of years ago, there would have been no reason to doubt his intentions. But, it appears that he is trying to buy votes of people by making this announcement just a few months before the Assembly elections," he added.

(With PTI inputs)

## DDA sacks 10 officials for 'corrupt practices'

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority on Tuesday said that it has sacked its 10 officials for alleged involvement in corrupt practices.

The rank of these 10 officials are – assistant director (ministerial), assistant accounts officer, two assistant engineers (civil), four junior engineers (civil), assistant section officer and a sectional officer (horticulture), the DDA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress working president Haroon Yusuf too described it as an attempt to "buy" votes before the Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year. Mr. Yusuf said the ruling AAP was trying to "mislead" people as the supply of water in many areas was "substandard".

In a statement on Tuesday, the DDA said it has "started a drive to weed out dead woods from the department and is in the process of premature retirement of its 10 group-B gazetted and non-gazetted officers/officials from the services of the authority under the provisions of FR-56(j)/Rule-48 of CCS (Pension) Rules-1972."

## Minister orders crackdown on hoarders as onion prices rise

Price of bulb has touched about ₹50 per kg in the city

### STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Food and Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Tuesday asked officials to take action against traders hoarding onions during a review meeting on the soaring price of the vegetable. The price of onion had touched about ₹50 per kg in the city.

"The Minister directed Food & Supplies Department and APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) to take effective enforcement action against hoarding, possible cartelisation and black marketing," an official statement said.

Mr. Hussain also ordered officials to send enforcement teams to various markets and godowns for checking such activities and were directed to send daily inspection reports to him.



**The Minister directed the Food and Supplies Department and the APMC to take effective enforcement action against hoarding, possible cartelisation and black marketing**

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Officials of APMC informed the Minister that due to floods in Maharashtra, regular supply of onion from Nashik was disrupted for a few days and added that officers concerned have been instructed to normalise the supply.

Officers of Mother Dairy/Safal outlets informed that NAFAED has sufficient stock of onions and supply in the retail market by Mother Dairy/Safal has been increased so that the retail price may not rise," the statement read.

Mr. Hussain also directed Commissioner of Food and Civil Supplies Department to convene regular meetings with stakeholder departments and agencies to ensure that prices of onion and other commodities are stable and under control.

Four years and also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on him.

Public servants have the inclination to indulge in corruption and this tendency

has to be curbed with a stern hand, a Delhi court said on Tuesday while awarding a four-year jail term to a police official for taking bribe.

Special Judge Sanjay Bansal sentenced Sarup Singh to rigorous imprisonment of

four years and also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on him.

"It is no more debatable that offences under Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act cannot be treated lightly.

The problem of corruption is perhaps the biggest challenge being faced by our country," he said.

Public servants still have the inclination to indulge in corruption.

This proclivity has to be curbed, and with a stern hand. Considered so, there is no question of imposing lesser sentence of imprisonment than the minimum," he added.

The case against Singh was registered in 2016 under Section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the basis of a written complaint.

It was alleged that the complainant was renovating his canteen at Lawrence Road Industrial Area and it was stopped by Singh, who was head constable at that time.

According to the complainant, Singh demanded ₹2 lakh bribe to allow renovation work. Following this, the CBI laid a trap and caught Singh red-handed while accepting money from the complainant.

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## Court upholds jail term in cheque bounce case

Convict told to pay ₹9.5 lakh compensation

### NIRNIMESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

A sessions court here has maintained six month imprisonment to a man in a cheque bounce case. It also asked the convict to pay a compensation of ₹9.5 lakh to the complainant as directed by a Metropolitan Magistrate.

The accused had come in an appeal against the magistrate court order holding him guilty of the offence under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

According to the complaint, Kanta had granted a friendly loan of ₹5 lakh to convict Om Pal Bhardwaj in 2004. Bhardwaj at the time assured the complainant that he would repay the loan within three months. Bhardwaj, a property dealer, was a tenant of Ms. Kanta.

In the appeal, counsel for the accused had argued that the trial court attached more importance to the complainant's evidence and neglected his defence.

After extension of the period for repaying the loan, Bhardwaj issued a cheque in favour of the complainant. But when Ms. Kanta submitted the cheque for payment to the bank concerned, the

bank authorities refused to honour it as the Bhardwaj's account had insufficient money.

When Bhardwaj was not found at his given address to serve a legal notice, Ms. Kanta filed a complaint in the magistrate court that held Bhardwaj guilty and awarded the sentence.

In the appeal, counsel for the accused had argued that the trial court attached more importance to the complainant's evidence and neglected his defence.

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# Centre will consider our plea on temple issue: SAD

'Amit Shah may approach Supreme Court over Ravidas temple'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal on Tuesday claimed that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had assured the party that the Centre would sympathetically consider its appeal to reconstruct the Guru Ravidas temple at its original location in Delhi's Tughlakabad.

Demolished by DDA

The temple was demolished by the Delhi Development Authority on 10 August on the orders of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Badal, who along with Union Minister Harshimrat Kaur Badal, met Mr. Shah, said that the Home Minister had assured the Akali Dal that he would look into the matter and that the Centre would take action keeping in



Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal. ■ FILE PHOTO

seemed the temple managing committee could not represent itself adequately in the court due to which it lost the case.

Meanwhile, Haryana Congress president Ashok Tanwar approached the Supreme Court seeking to rebuild the Sant Ravidas temple in Tughlakabad.

Right to Worship

The petition, which was filed by Ashok Tanwar and former Haryana Minister Pradeep Jain Aditya, has sought enforcement of the Right to Worship, which petitioners submitted had been denied to them due to the demolishing of the Ravidas temple.

The petition said: "The land at the site is of utmost historical and religious importance to all followers of Guru Ravidas as the Guru himself had lived at the site."

While the investigation in

mind the sentiments of the Ravidasia community.

"This includes taking up the case with the Supreme Court also," he said in a statement.

Mr. Badal said as per historical record, the land for the temple was granted to the community by Sultan Sikander Lodhi. He said it

ed the 15-member committee, headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge B.K. Sarma, to prepare the ground to implement Clause 6 that states: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, lin-

guistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."

The retired officers, including a former bureaucrat, said no leader from the Barak Valley was a signatory of the 1985 Assam Accord which ended a six-year agitation to eject illegal migrants from the State.

"The people of Barak Val-

# Two MLAs booked for murder during anti-encroachment drive

A mob had thrown stones at an earth-moving machine driver

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan police have registered a case of murder against two Rashtriya Loktantr Party MLAs and some others in connection with the death of a driver of an earth-moving machine during an anti-encroachment drive in Nagaur district last week. A mob had allegedly hurled stones and attacked the driver in the presence of the two MLAs.

Separately, a criminal case was registered against the Sub-Divisional Officer in Nagaur on charges of threatening the protesters and investigating the police force to assault them, besides insulting them on the basis of their caste.

The administration had demolished a large number of houses of Banjara families living in Tausar village during the drive.

While the investigation in

## Obscene video: two suspended BJP leaders held

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHIMLA

Two BJP functionaries, suspended last month by the party after they appeared in a sexually explicit video, were arrested on Tuesday along with the wife of the man in the clip. The BJP had suspended a district-level youth wing leader and a women's wing leader last month after a case was lodged against them.

the murder case was handed over to the CID-Crime Branch, the district administration has paid financial assistance of ₹20 lakh to the next of kin of 40-year-old deceased, Farooq.

About 20 people arrested on charges of disturbing peace were sent to judicial custody.

The MLAs – Indira Bawari (Merta) and Pukhraj Garg (Bhopalgarh) – were also charged with obstructing the public servants in discharging their duty and damaging public vehicles. RLP founder and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal had led a massive protest outside the Collector's office over the action against Banjara

Ms. Bawari said that the administration has lodged a false case against them to avoid taking responsibility. She added that she was trying to pacify people who were disappointed due to the demolition drive.

Both the legislators have given a written complaint against the SDM at the Kotwali police station.

(With PTI inputs)

# Sonia Gandhi dissolves Odisha Cong. committee

Niranjan Patnaik to stay as State unit chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

The uncertainty has finally ended for the Congress in Odisha with the party's national president Sonia Gandhi dissolving the Pradesh Congress Committee office-bearers and all other committees constituted for the recently held Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the State.

PCC president Niranjan Patnaik and two working presidents Chiranjib Biswal and Pradip Majhi, however, will continue in their posts as per the decision taken by the Congress president on Monday.

Resigned from post

Mr. Patnaik, who was appointed PCC president in April 2018, had resigned from his post following the poor performance of the Congress in the State in the recent elections.

His resignation, however, was not accepted by the AICC.

"We are sure and confident that we will fight back and recover our space in Odisha politics," said Saptagiri Ulaka, party's lone Member of Parliament from Koraput, in a tweet, while thanking the Congress leadership for taking the necessary steps in reviving the party in the State.

A party leader in Bhubaneswar expressed satisfaction over the AICC decision. As Mr. Patnaik, Mr. Biswal and Mr. Majhi have remained in their posts they should constitute different committees of the PCC without delay, he said.



Niranjan Patnaik

tion over the AICC decision. As Mr. Patnaik, Mr. Biswal and Mr. Majhi have remained in their posts they should constitute different committees of the PCC without delay, he said.

Regaining lost ground

Another office-bearer of the party said that organisational restructuring should be carried out at all levels to regain the party's lost ground in the State. The ensuing urban body elections will offer a chance to revitalise the party across the State, he said.

The Congress has been losing strength in Odisha in recent years by losing ground to the Bharatiya Janata Party that is growing fast since it emerged as the number one rival to the ruling Biju Janata Dal in the panchayat elections in 2017.

The Congress bagged only one Lok Sabha and nine Assembly seats in the recent elections as against one Lok Sabha and 16 Assembly seats in 2014.

# Former officers' plea to respect diversity of Barak Valley

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

A group of retired officers has asked a high-powered committee to keep southern Assam's Barak Valley and the State's hill districts out of its recommendations on the implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.

The Centre had constituted

the 15-member committee, headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge B.K. Sarma, to prepare the ground to implement Clause 6 that states: "Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, lin-

guistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people."

The retired officers, including a former bureaucrat, said no leader from the Barak Valley was a signatory of the 1985 Assam Accord which ended a six-year agitation to eject illegal migrants from the State.

"The people of Barak Val-

ley and the hill districts, who have their distinct languages, culture and ethnicity, historical and social backgrounds are not a party to that Accord. And obviously the high-powered committee for the implementation of Clause 6, constituted (by the Centre) excluded due representation from the two

areas," the retired officers wrote in a letter to Justice Sarma.

They said both the State and the Union governments deliberately refrained from inclusion of any member from the two areas keeping in view "the ground reality and applicability of the jurisdiction" of the panel constitu-

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INTERVIEW | DEVENDRA FADNAVIS

# 'When people face hardship, they feel nothing has been done by the govt.'

For the last five years, I have been telling the real estate community that the future is in affordable, not premium housing: Chief Minister

SHARAD VYAS  
JALGAON

*In the middle of his government's mega voter outreach programme seeking a second term for the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP)-led coalition government, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis takes time out to talk to The Hindu on the current economic meltdown and why he thinks India has what it takes to accelerate demand and get back on track. The stimulus announced by the Central government and packages to the construction industry by his government are more than just political patchworks. The "unprecedented situation that India has not faced in last 70 years" as described by Niti Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar is only limited to select sectors which face a credit crunch owing to the IL&FS crisis. Though not an economist, he says he can safely forecast an economic recovery. Edited excerpts from a chat on board his convoy while crisscrossing the Jalgaon and Dhule districts.*

Niti Aayog vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar describes the current economic slowdown as "unprecedented in the last 70 years". But you are telling the people that Maharashtra is in the middle of an economic boom, with record investment, and the core sector going from strength to strength. Are these not two disconnected realities, and how does one reconcile them?

■ As far as talks of a slowdown are concerned, I think they have started only in the last three to four months. However, I am confident that Monday's announcement by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharamanji, will help us catch up on the economic front. I do not think there will be a problem in the long run because only a few sectors seem to be facing a crunch. Their troubles are largely borne out of a new tax regime adopted by the Government.

Some people who never cared about paying taxes and were out of the tax net for a long time are now facing the heat. Secondly, a credit crisis was created after we adopted the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), bringing the same people – who were misusing regulations and unscrupulously siphoning off

money – into the tax net. All of this created a disruption. Now, with the stimulus measures and the injection of ₹700 billion of additional capital into State-run banks, the credit crisis is only short lived. Additionally, the monsoon has been good and will result in accelerated trading and a cascading effect of increased demand in the economy. This (slowdown) is a temporary phase.

The Niti Aayog v-c has claimed extraordinary steps need to be taken but there is a concern that measures announced by the FM are a mere political patchwork?

■ I am not an economist and there are better economic advisors to the Government

  
C If today a signature campaign is started, 99% of Mumbai's citizens will vote in favour of the coastal road.



Personal touch: CM Devendra Fadnavis greeting people and supporters during the Mahajanadesh yatra. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

who have formed the basis of the measures announced by the honourable FM.

As of now, I can only say the measures are sufficient and likely to give the sectors facing the heat a definite stimulus. You see, the basic problem was a result of the crisis in the Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), which led to a slowdown in retail advances.

But we hope that that will be taken care of with the measures announced by the FM.

The Indian economy is such that once a demand is created, it starts accelerating, it comes back on track. Moreover, the linking of the repo rate with the interest rate will give further impetus since so far the banks did not pass on the benefits of an unprecedented reduction in repo rates to consumers.

These rates will now come down and you will see the

housing sector – facing a slow down – getting a major boost from this linking.

So does the same logic (consumer benefitting from reforms) apply to the fiscal incentives announced for the real estate sector here by your Government?

■ For the last five years, I have been telling the real estate community that the future is in affordable housing and not premium. They have now understood this reality.

The developers building premium homes have seen their interest cost increase over the actual cost of the house, while those focussed on affordable housing have sold 1,000 flats in less than three days. We believe the market has understood there is no scope for premium housing. From our side, we have incorporated a sunset clause in the fiscal package, ensuring that

some concessions stay for two years and others for three, depending on how the market responds, and if it stabilises to pass on the incentives to the people, matching demand and supply. If that does not happen, we will discontinue this package.

■ However, you are talking of abrogation of Article 370, instead of a job generation plan, or whether the flood situation has worsened the economic crisis?

■ The job losses are visible in sectors like automobiles where the basic problem was the policy shift to BS6 by 2021, resulting in anticipation of price increase in future. This has resulted in an inventory pile-up at dealership level of unsold BS IV vehicles, becoming a problem for the sector. Overall, the floods too may impact on the economy but a major brunt will be

borne by the sugar industry which may face a problem with disposing stock. We may have to reschedule their debts in the near future.

There are also question marks on the government's management of the floods?

■ The criticism is unfair. Sometimes when people face hardship, it is natural that they feel nothing has been done by the government.

Fact is, the water in the region rose in just two days after an unprecedented 700mm rainfall in seven days. Nobody could have anticipated that the water would rise like this.

We are experiencing a fallout of real climate change. Having said that, the rescue teams too could not reach the affected areas since the highways were cut off and the planes could not land. After two days of trying to get them

to land, I spoke to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singhji who provided Dauphin aircraft from Rajasthan, which could land in marshy conditions.

There is also criticism over handling of the general law and order under your leadership, while the police force appears divided. Is that a fair comment?

■ You see, even though certain things may have happened within, the force remains united. These stray incidents cannot be used to label the force as divisive. Last five years, there have been no report of lobbies active in the police, including some lobbies that had in the past held allegiance to the underworld as well. Ultimately, there are people who have egos or different convictions, but we have the right men in place for the right job.

The postings are happening on merit now as opposed to the past when they happened only for considerations.

Despite the pace, why is your government pushing back the deadline for big-ticket projects, first it was 2019 now 2021? And then there are the flamboyant ones such as the Pune-Mumbai Hyperloop and Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train projects.

■ Some of the projects are getting delayed due to unnecessary litigation. For example, for the Metro 3, the honourable court took time to adjudicate on two petitions objecting to work during the day and at night time.

While we were not doing either. It took nine months for this to resolve and there was a cost escalation of ₹600 crore. The two projects you mentioned are not only of interest to us.

When the Japanese government invests ₹1 lakh crore with 0.5% interest rate and a 20-year moratorium, who do you think will benefit? Who will they buy cement from? Who will they employ labour from? It will only lead to a push for the economy.

These are just misconceptions. Let me tell you, only one per cent of travellers were using flights when we started building airports. We will fight these misconceptions against all odds.

## EOW constitutes SIT to probe MSCB loan scam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing has constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe the Maharashtra Cooperative Bank case, an FIR for which was registered on Monday.

The EOW registered an offence under the Indian Penal Code as well as the Prevention of Corruption Act on the directions of the Bombay High Court, which is hearing a PIL on the matter. The petitioner, Surinder Arora, had moved the high court in 2012.

Due to the seriousness of the case and the players involved, we have appointed an Assistant Commissioner of Police level officers as the Investigating Officer of the case, who will head the SIT," according to an

EOW officer.

The officer added that the SIT will first examine all the documents pertaining to the case.

"We will start with the inspection report prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in 2011 as well as other reports connected to the matter. Documents of all financial transactions made by the bank from 2002 to 2017, during which period the offence is alleged to have occurred, will also be studied. We have called for copies of these documents from the concerned agencies as well as the banks," the officer said.

He added that examination of the documents is necessary to study the money trail and verify allegations of fraudulent loans.

## No evidence against Gonsalves, says lawyer

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

Activist Vernon Gonsalves's lawyer told the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that there is no material to show his client's involvement in the Bhiwai Korgaon violence.

Senior counsel Mihir Desai informed a single Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal that the FIR does not name Mr. Gonsalves and that there is some electronic evidence that is being used by the Pune Police against him.

Arguing for bail, Mr. Desai said Mr. Gonsalves has been in Yerwada jail for a year charged with the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, though the "incriminating material found by the prosecution" does not even name him. Mr. Desai read out two letters relied upon by the prosecution, recovered from

the laptops of accused activist Rona Wilson and advocate Surendra Gadling, both arrested on June 6, 2018, which according to Pune police, implies his involvement. "The letter is not addressed to Mr. Gonsalves; they were not found with him, nor do they refer to him," he said.

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### Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department Tel. No: 01781252004, Mail : eepwd-kothhai -hp@nic.in e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer HPPWD Kothhai Distt Shimla H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time	Eligible class of Contractor
1.	Restoration of rain damages on Gumma Pujari Baghi Road Km 0/0 to 28/545 (SH- Improvement of formation deficiencies in Km 9/495 to 9/720 and C/O Breast walls in various Rds between Km 9/0 to 19/0)	Rs. 13349913/-	Rs. 1,66,000/-	Rs. 500/-	2 Month	Class B

Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in> by the firm/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.

Key Dates:

1. Date of Online Publication	09.09.2019 11:00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	09.09.2019 11:30 HRS upto 18.09.2019 1730 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	09.09.2019 11:30 HRS upto 18.09.2019 1800 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	18.09.2019 upto 1030 HRS
5. Date of Technical Bid	19.09.2019 11:00 HRS
6. Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bid.	Date to be announced

Executive Engineer, Kotkhai Division, HPPWD, Kotkhai  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
HP/1703/19-20

### GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR TENDER Notice No.36 Year 2019-20

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost
1	STBT To Ambadi Dighashi Kunde Savroli Road MDR 47 Km 2/00 to 3/300, 6/600 To 8/300 Tal Bhawandi Dist Thane.	1,74,00,000/-

Prebid Meeting Date 30/08/2019 Time 2.00 PM

Open Date 09/09/2019 Time 12.30 PM

1. Tender form Condition of Contract Specification and Contract drawing can be downloaded from e-tendering portal of public work Department of Maharashtra i.e. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>  
2. Tender Notice can be seen also on website [www.Mahapwd.com](http://www.Mahapwd.com) and [https://mahatenders.gov.in](http://https://mahatenders.gov.in)

Sd/-  
Executive  
P.W. Division No.1 Thane

DGIPR.2019/2020/2273

### HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM

The online tender for the work "Missing Bridge on Uhal to Bakkar Khad via Parnali km. 5/700 to 5/758 Package No. HP-03-20 under PMGSY World Bank RRP-II 2018-19" which was sent to publication vide this office tender notice No. PW-SE-VIII-A-2/Tender-PMGSY/2019-5881-5921 dated 30.07.2019 and published in various news papers vide RO. No. 1295/2019-20 (Classified) dated 07.08.2019 and further published online on dated 14.08.2019. The deadline for submission of Bid and Date of opening of Technical bid is hereby postponed due to technical grounds and the revised dates are as follows:-

Date of Tenders	Previous	Now may be read as
Deadline date for submission of Bid	27.08.2019 at 5:00 PM	17.09.2019 at 5:00 PM
Date for opening of Technical bid	28.8.2019 at 11:30 AM	18.09.2019 at 11:30 AM

Superintending Engineer,  
8<sup>th</sup> Circle, HPPWD,  
Hamirpur.  
HP/1671/19-20

### GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA Executive Engineer P.W. Division, Palghar,

#### e-Tender Notice No.62 for 2019-20

Online Tenders (e-tender) in "B1" form for the work is invited by the Executive Engineer, P.W. Division, Palghar on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System from registered contractors in appropriate class of Public Works Department of Maharashtra State.

This tender notice contains 3 (Three) work and their details can also be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tendering Portal <http://mahatenders.gov.in> and sub portal [www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com)

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Fund Head
1	Re-Construction of Superstructure of Makunsa Creek Bridge on Zai		

## IN BRIEF



Will ensure farmers get their due, says Rahul

KALPETA  
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that he and his party will raise the issues of farmers aggressively in Parliament. Speaking after concluding the first-day visit of his constituency on Tuesday, Mr. Gandhi said he had witnessed the wretched condition of farmers in Wayanad district owing to rain-related calamities.

**SC to consider urgent plea of disqualified MLAs**

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider an urgent plea made by several disqualified Karnataka MLAs for an early hearing of their petitions challenging their ouster from the Assembly by former Speaker Ramesh Kumar under the anti-defection law.

## Army man pushed out of train in robbery bid near Bengaluru

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A 28-year-old Army man, who was travelling with his family to Maddur, was allegedly pushed off a train by a group of men who attempted to rob him of his mobile phone. The incident took place near the Nayandahalli railway station on Sunday while he was going to the washroom.

Made Gowda was on leave from his posting at Bathinda, Punjab, and was visiting his native town with his wife and child. The couple boarded the train at the city station around 7.20 a.m. After the train started moving, Mr. Gowda went to the wash-

## Orthodox Church will not attend govt. meet

'Follow SC order in Malankara case'

## STAFF REPORTER

KOTTAYAM

Registering its protest against the contents of a letter sent by the Kerala government to Malankara Metropolitan Baselios Marthoma Poulose II, the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church (MOSC) has warned of initiating contempt proceedings against the State government for its failure in implementing Supreme Court orders in the Malankara church case.

In a letter addressed to the Additional Chief Secretary, MOSC secretary Biju Oommen said the church was shocked at the request to the Metropolitan to attend a discussion on August 29 with the original 1934 constitution.

Pointing out that the Supreme Court judgments in the Malankara church cases were final and applied to all

## BJP seeks probe as TTD faces heat over 'missing jewellery'

'Why go for recovery of value rather than legal proceedings'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIRUPATI

The issue of "missing jewellery", valued at ₹7.36 lakh, from the TTD treasury has stirred a hornet's nest. The issue has gone viral on social media, with many questioning the rationale behind the TTD going for mere recovery of its equivalent value, rather than initiating legal proceedings.

It is a practice in the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams to physically verify the jewellery every year. When any deviation is noticed, entries are made in the stock register and action initiated as per the suggestion of approved valuers. During one such verification, it was found that two gold rings, two necklaces and a silver crown had gone missing in October 2017.



It is a practice in the TTD to physically verify the jewellery every year.

The management directed its recovery from the salary of then Assistant Executive Officer (Treasury) M. Srinivasulu at the rate of ₹25,000 per month.

**Official's stand**

The official urged the management that the order be kept in abeyance until the

outcome of the stock verification process, due soon, is known. The official said the "missing" case could have been caused by an error of judgment during the valuation or category of the material, or an accounting lapse.

Mr. Srinivasulu pointed out that no official posted to the treasury in the cadre of AEO or Deputy EO had ever been subjected to a recovery process in the past.

Meanwhile, BJP State spokesperson G. Bhanuprakash Reddy wondered how jewellery weighing over 5 kg could be moved out of the heavily guarded treasury. He demanded a probe by a sitting judge of the High Court.

He sought to know why the TTD preferred recovery of cost to initiating criminal proceedings against the official in question.

The court also awarded an additional term of five years along with a fine of ₹5,000

## Another witness turns hostile in Abhaya case

He failed to identify priest's scooter

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) once again faced a setback in the Sister Abhaya case trial on Tuesday. A person the agency had named as witness turned hostile during cross-examination on the second day of hearing.

The CBI had cited the individual as a witness after he said he had seen the scooter owned by one of the accused, Father Thomas Kottoor, parked near the convent on the night Sister Abhaya died under mysterious circumstances. However on Tuesday, the witness

## Court awards double life term for 10 in Kevin murder case

All convicted for abduction and murder of Dalit Christian youth from Kottayam

## STAFF REPORTER

KOTTAYAM

The principal sessions court here on Tuesday awarded a double life term and imposed a fine of ₹40,000 each on all 10 persons convicted of abducting and murdering Kevin P. Joseph, a 23-year-old Dalit Christian from Kottayam. Judge C. Jayachandran sentenced the accused to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹25,000 each for offences under Section 302 (murder) of the IPC. He awarded another life term and a fine of ₹15,000 each under IPC 364 A (abduction). The accused have been sent to the Thiruvananthapuram Central Prison to serve the sentence.

The court also awarded an additional term of five years along with a fine of ₹5,000



Syanu Chacko, the prime accused in Kevin murder case, being escorted to the principal sessions court in Kottayam.

each. Shifin, the seventh accused found guilty under IPC Section 201 for causing disappearance of evidence, was handed an additional term of three years plus a fine of ₹5,000.

The court ordered that of the fine amount, ₹1 lakh be given to Aneesh Sebastian, the prime witness in the case, who was abducted along with Kevin, as compensation for the loss and injuries sustained and the rest of the amount should be divided equally between Kevin's wife Neenu Chacko and his father Joseph alias Rajan.

The court accepted the prosecution's argument that racial prejudice was the motive for the youth's murder, making it the first ever case of honour killing to be reported in the State.

Nishad and Shanu, who were found guilty under Section 323, were awarded six months' rigorous imprisonment plus a fine of ₹5,000

each. Shifin, the seventh accused found guilty under IPC Section 201 for causing disappearance of evidence, was handed an additional term of three years plus a fine of ₹5,000.

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## Astra Rafael opens facility for defence communication system



Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy inaugurating the facility in Hyderabad. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

The facility, located at the Hardware Technology Park, is executing a \$30 million order from Rafael, which it received from the IAF.

## Bumper catch



Getting ready for the market: Fish put out in the open for drying at the harbour in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. There is a huge demand for dry fish in the domestic and overseas market. ■ C.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

## KPCC president seeks Tharoor's explanation for 'pro-Modi' remarks

He said the shift in MP's stance had hurt sentiments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president M. L. Ramachandran on Wednesday sought Congress MP Shashi Tharoor's explanation for his 'pro-Modi' statements.

In a sharply worded letter, Mr. Ramachandran wanted Mr. Tharoor to explain the reasons for taking such a stance and why he chose to make public statements instead of expressing his stance in party forums.

The KPCC president said Congress president Sonia Gandhi had reiterated the Congress party's stance on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a function organised



Shashi Tharoor

in connection with the 75th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi. The party considered the Modi government a failure in all sectors.

The country was facing the worst economic crisis since Independence, as pointed out by none other

## Search at Kavalappara called off

## STAFF REPORTER

MALAPPURAM

The district administration on Tuesday suspended the search operations for the remaining people who are feared to have been buried under the debris following a landslip at Kavalappara, near Nilambur, in Kerala.

As many as 48 bodies were recovered following a 19-day joint search led by the State Fire and Rescue Services. Eleven people are still missing.

District Collector Jaffer Malik assured the relatives of the missing persons that all benefits given to the kin of the dead would be made available to them as well.

The government is giving ₹4 lakh each to the kin of the dead.

## Keep politics out of Article 370 issue

Neighbouring country may try to cash in on fragmented opinions: Vice-President



Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu at an event organised to mark his completion of two years in office. ■ V. RAJU

He said the political parties should evolve a code of conduct for their public representatives at various levels and urged them to improve the standards of public discourse.

**Regional appeal courts** The Vice-President mooted constitution of special judicial tribunals for quick and time-bound disposal of criminal cases against politicians, election petitions and political defections.

The Vice-President also called for plugging loopholes in the 10th Schedule of the Constitution that deal with defections and advocated setting up of regional courts of appeal and Supreme Court Benches across the country for speedy disposal of cases.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

VIJAYAWADA

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu said here on Tuesday that the abrogation of Article 370 was a national issue and not a political one and called upon people to speak in one voice.

He cautioned that a neighbouring country could misuse fragmented opinions at international fora.

Speaking at a 'Meet and Greet' organised by his friends and well-wishers on his completion of two years in office, Mr. Naidu said the move was long overdue as it concerned the unity and integrity of the country.

"Article 370 is only a temporary and transitory provision in the Constitution," he said, adding, that its dilution would pave the way for industrialisation of Jammu and

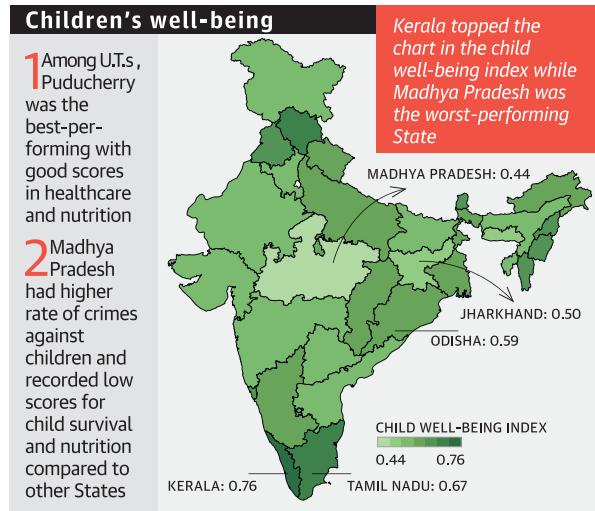
Kashmir, creation of employment and promotion of tourism.

Pointing out that the Bill on the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir was passed by an overwhelming majority in both Houses of Parliament, Mr. Naidu recalled the debate in 1964 on a private

member's Bill when members cutting across the party lines had called for it.

Even the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had pointed to the transitory and temporary nature of the provision during a debate in Parliament in 1963, the Vice-President said.

# Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal top India's child well-being index



## BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN NEW DELHI

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Puducherry topped the charts in the child well-being index, a tool designed to measure and track children's well-being comprehensively. Meghalaya, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh featured at the bottom of the list, according to a report released by the non-government organisation World Vision India and research institute IFMR LEAD on Tuesday.

The report is an attempt to look at how India fairs on child well-being using a composite child well-being index.

### 'Crucial report'

Speaking on the report CEO Niti Ayog Amitabh Kant noted: "The India child well-being index is a crucial report that can be mined both by the government and civil organisations to achieve the goal of child well-being and we will use this report effectively. This report provides

insights on health, nutrition, education, sanitation and child protection."

The dimensions of the index include healthy individual development, positive relationships and protective contexts.

### 24 indicators

"Focusing on the three key dimensions, 24 indicators were selected to develop the computation of the child well-being index. The report highlights the multi-dimensional approach towards

measuring child well-being – going beyond mere income poverty. Children have the potential to transform the country, but if neglected, they will exacerbate the burden of poverty and inequality. It is imperative that all stakeholders prioritise and invest in the well-being of our children," said Cherian Thomas, CEO, World Vision India.

The report, calls for States to look at their respective scores on the dimensions of child well-being, and to pre-

pare for priority areas of intervention with specific plans of action.

It also hopes to trigger policy level changes, seek better budgetary allocations and initiate discussions with all stakeholders, which can help in enhancing the quality of life of all children in the country.

### 'Compelling insights'

"The research has brought to the fore compelling insights on child well-being in India. One of the primary objec-

tives of this index is to garner attention to the under-researched theme of child well-being in India, and inspire further academic and policy conversations on related issues," said Sharon Buteau, executive director, IFMR LEAD.

"Some of the key indicators that need to be studied include mobile usage, digital access, financial literacy, mental health and quality of relationships per se, between parents/peers and children," she added.

## IN BRIEF



**Cong. leader Kuldeep Bishnoi's hotel attacked**

NEW DELHI  
A ₹150 crore worth five-star hotel in a prime business space of Gurgaon's DLF-phase 1 was attacked by the Income-tax department as a 'benami' asset of Haryana Congress leader Kuldeep Bishnoi and his brother, I-T officials said on Tuesday. PTI

**Panchayat 'punishes' gang rape victim**

PATNA  
A 15-year-old girl was gang raped by a group who abducted her from outside her home in Masaundha village in Bihar's Gaya district. In a strange turn of events, the village panchayat ordered that the victim be tonsured and paraded as "punishment."

**Woman succumbs to Congo fever in Gujarat**

AHMEDABAD  
A 75-year-old woman Sukhiben Meniya from Surendranagar district in Gujarat died on Sunday night due to Congo fever which is transmitted to people through ticks, the State government said. The State has directed the health authorities to remain alert to contain the spread of the deadly disease.

**HC upholds acquittal of journalist Jigna Vora**

MUMBAI  
The Bombay High Court (HC) on Tuesday upheld the acquittal of journalist Jigna Vora in the 2011 murder of journalist J. Dey. A Division Bench of Justices B.P. Dharadikar and S.K. Shinde was hearing a plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after the trial court acquitted Ms. Vora and Paulson Palitara.

**HC expedites disposal of land grab cases**

CHENNAI  
The Madras High Court on Tuesday paved the way for early disposal of 82 land-grab cases booked by the Chennai police since 2006 and pending before two special courts from 2011 because of an interim order from the Supreme Court against the functioning of the special courts for trial of such cases.

**Tank-like structure found at Keezhadi**

KEEZHADI  
After wall structures and a ring well, the Department of Archaeology has found a tank-like brick structure and terracotta pipelines during an excavation at Keezhadi. An official said a clear picture could be arrived at only after ascertaining whether the structures were interconnected.

## 5 mn hectares of land set to be rejuvenated

About 96.4 mn hectares have become unfit for cultivation

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A week ahead of a United Nations conference here that will see experts from over 90 countries deliberate ways to combat desertification, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said India had committed to rejuvenate 50 lakh hectares (5 million) of degraded land between 2021 and 2030.

India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded.

This January, India became part of the "Bonn Challenge", a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and an additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Soil Health Management Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee



**Going green:** The land rejuvenation work will be taken up from 2021.

tary Bonn Challenge and pledged to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, and an additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Soil Health Management Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee

Yojana are seen as prongs to tackle this land degradation, said a press statement from the Environment Ministry.

### The Bonn Challenge

A senior official in the Ministry told *The Hindu* that the 5 million hectares were part of the Bonn Challenge commitment. "It's going to be combination of restoring forest land as well as cultivable land," he underlined.

India for the first time will be hosting the 14th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2 to 13.

A report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change earlier this month underlined that land everywhere was bearing the brunt of severe climate change already which would lead to extreme food insecurity if steps weren't taken.

But the woman's father

reached following two-hour consultation with parliamentarians who had moved amendments to the Act during the debate in Parliament.

"We have accepted most of the suggestions given by the parliamentarians and we will incorporate them in the rules which will be framed by December. Citizens can submit their suggestions on the rules till September 15," he said.

The companies must protect the personally identifiable information of customers, should not directly or

## Ex-Minister booked as girl goes missing in U.P.

'Chinmayanand harassing my daughter'

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SHAHJAHANPUR

The police here on Tuesday lodged an FIR against former Union Minister and BJP leader Swami Chinmayanand after a student went missing following her allegation in a video clip that he had been harassing her.

Her father had filed a complaint with the police accusing Chinmayanand of sexually harassing her, a charge refuted by his lawyer who claimed it was a "conspiracy" to blackmail him.

Chinmayanand has been a three-time Lok Sabha MP and was a Minister of State in the Atal Bihari Vajpeyi government. In 2011, he was accused of rape by an inmate of his ashram.

When contacted, his lawyer Om Singh claimed that the leader was being blackmailed and had received a WhatsApp message demanding ₹5 crore.

He said an FIR was lodged over this on August 25.

The SP said that the video and the message demanding money from the former Minister will be probed by senior officers, and action will be taken against those guilty.

In a video clip posted by the woman online, she said she was under threat from a leader of the sants community, without naming Chinmayanand or specifying the kind of harassment she allegedly faced.

But the woman's father

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Wednesday:** Heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy falls very likely at isolated places over Gujarat region, east Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim, Assam and Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

**City** **Rain** **Max** **Min** **City** **Rain** **Max** **Min**

Agartala	—	37.0	26.0	Kozhikode	46.6	30.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	21.1	28.0	24.0	Kurnool	—	35.0	25.0
Aizawl	—	32.0	19.0	Lucknow	—	35.0	27.0
Allahabad	—	35.0	27.0	Madurai	—	38.0	26.0
Bengaluru	0.2	28.0	20.0	Mangaluru	85.4	28.0	22.0
Bhopal	10.4	30.0	23.0	Mumbai	0.1	32.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	1.1	30.0	24.0	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.0	27.0	New Delhi	—	36.0	26.0
Chennai	—	36.0	27.0	Patna	1.2	35.0	27.0
Coimbatore	—	30.9	22.4	Port Blair	6.4	28.0	24.0
Dehradun	—	34.7	24.3	Puducherry	—	35.0	25.0
Gangtok	0.2	25.6	17.6	Pune	3.4	29.0	19.0
Goa	7.8	31.0	24.0	Raipur	0.8	30.0	24.0
Guwahati	1	36.0	26.0	Ranchi	—	28.0	22.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	21.0	Shillong	—	28.0	17.0
Hyderabad	—	33.0	23.0	Shimla	0.7	23.0	17.0
Imphal	—	30.0	22.0	Srinagar	0.0	0.0	0.0
Jaipur	—	32.0	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	15.3	31.0	23.0
Kochi	46.4	29.0	23.0	Tiruchi	—	37.0	26.0
Kohima	—	29.0	20.0	Vijayawada	36.0	26.0	20.0
Kolkata	0.9	32.0	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.0	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

**CITIES** **SO<sub>2</sub>** **NO<sub>2</sub>** **CO** **PM<sub>2.5</sub>** **PM<sub>10</sub>** **CODE**  
Moderate levels of particulate matter pollution recorded in cities across the country. Going by Central Pollution Control Board data, Bathinda, Punjab recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 30, indicating healthy air quality. Baghat, Uttar Pradesh fared the worst with an AQI of 156, indicating moderate levels of pollutants.

Air Quality Code: SO<sub>2</sub> Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>2</sub> Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub> Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

## Portal drops plea against Amit Shah's son

### LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Online news portal *The Wire* on Tuesday withdrew its plea for quashing a defamation case filed by Jay Shah, son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, against it and its journalists.

Appearing for the portal before a Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, senior advocate Kapil Sibal urged the court to allow it to face the trial in a Gujarat court.

The Bench allowed the plea, but not before making certain strong oral observations about the way journalism is practised, especially how subjects are not given sufficient time to respond before articles on them are published.

In a statement, the news portal said "circumstances have arisen as per which we make use of the opportunity to justify everything we have stated in our article at the trial. We are therefore withdrawing."

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## Gift from RBI

The government should put the bonanza to use in a prudent manner

After a long tug of war, the government has eventually had its way with the Reserve Bank of India, managing to get it to part with a portion of its accumulated reserves. The RBI board, on Monday, decided to transfer a massive ₹1,76,051 crore to the government, including a sum of ₹52,637 crore from its contingency reserve built over the last several years. The outflow from the RBI's reserves was limited to this amount only because the Bimal Jalan Committee, appointed to recommend the economic capital framework for the RBI, decided to keep a major part of the reserves locked up and out of the reach of the government while opening up the remainder with strict stipulations. The Committee has recommended, and rightly so, that the Currency and Gold Revaluation Reserve Account (₹6.91 lakh crore as of June 30, 2018), at least half of which was eyed by the government, represents unrealised gains and hence is not distributable to the government. In the case of the Contingency Reserve (built out of retained earnings), which was ₹2.32 lakh crore as of the same date, the committee said that it should be maintained within a band of 6.5-5.5% of total assets. It left it to the RBI board to decide the precise percentage it was comfortable within this band and transfer the excess to the government. As it happened, the board, in its Monday meeting, decided to peg this ratio at 5.5% thus enabling it to transfer a sum of ₹52,637 crore to the government immediately. The committee should also be complimented for clearly specifying that the revaluation reserve cannot be used to bridge shortfalls in other reserves.

In principle, it could be argued that the government as sovereign owns the RBI and hence there is nothing wrong if it decides to tap the central bank's reserves. Yet, that it actually chose to do so is unfortunate because these reserves represent inter-generational equity built up over several years by the RBI by squirrelling away a part of its annual surplus. It is morally unacceptable that any one government can swallow even a part of such funds to help meet its expenditure in a particular year. The reserves, as the Jalan Committee has pointed out, represent the country's savings for a 'rainy day', which is a monetary or financial crisis. Interestingly, the net surplus of ₹1,23,414 crore posted by the RBI in 2018-19 is more than double that of the previous year and is considerably higher than the ₹65,876 crore that it netted in 2015-16. Only the release of the RBI's Annual Report in the next few days will help in the understanding of the reasons behind the sharp jump in the surplus. The big transfer from the RBI will free up the hands of the government at a time when tax revenues are undershooting the target by a long chalk. The money, it is hoped, will be put to use in a prudent manner.

## State of stasis

In Karnataka, the BJP government's cabinet formation has been stuck in first gear

Nearly a month after taking oath and winning a trust vote, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has still not managed to finalise the Cabinet of Ministers of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government. The fact that it has managed to fill only 17 of a maximum of 34 Ministers and only announced portfolios on Monday suggests that the Chief Minister has been walking on eggshells to accommodate various interests. That cabinet formation has taken so long should not come as any surprise to those following the political events in Karnataka over the last three months. A prolonged political crisis led to the fall of the Congress-JDS regime; the BJP's ascension to power was made possible by a rebellion within the coalition's ranks. The 17 MLAs who were subsequently disqualified for their actions are waiting to know the fate of their challenge to the then Speaker's order in the Supreme Court. But they will be encouraged about their prospect of becoming Ministers if the induction of H. Nagesh, an independent MLA who was a Minister in the previous regime, is any indication. The fact that two among the newly inducted Ministers were not even MLAs, but BJP leaders who played an important role in facilitating these defections also suggests that some of the rebels could be expected to be given berths. But the delay in cabinet formation is not just due to issues related to accommodating these turncoats.

The State BJP has been overly reliant on the party centre to give it direction on every step it has taken so far since the Chief Minister took oath. With the BJP enjoying only a wafer thin majority in the Assembly, the responsibility to ensure a tight ship has fallen upon the powerful party centre led by senior leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The appointment of three Deputy Chief Ministers belonging to various influential communities was clearly meant to accommodate alternative centres of power and to diversify the support base. This does not seem to be Mr. Yediyurappa's preference, if his public utterances over the matter are any indication. But the party centre's calling the shots seems to be leaving him with little choice. The BJP prided itself as a party that accorded greater autonomy to its regional leaders to handle such matters, but in Karnataka today, it is a throwback to the old Congress system with the evident preponderance of the party high command. Whether these steps lead to a balance of interests or to fresh disaffection remains to be seen. But the net result of these political shenanigans has been a prolonged stasis in governance as is visible in the laggardly work done in rehabilitation and reconstruction in parts of Karnataka that are reeling from the after-effects of debilitating floods.

# A monumental litmus test

How the Supreme Court decides the cases around Article 370 will have a deep bearing on democracy



SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

Perhaps not since the Indira Gandhi-declared Emergency has the Supreme Court of India faced an examination such as this, where its moral fibre is at stake. There, in *ADM Jabalpur v. Shivkant Shukla*, the court, by its own subsequent admission, came up lamentably short. The court, by ruling that fundamental rights, including a person's right to life, could be validly suspended during a period of emergency, left democracy teetering on the edge of the abyss. Now it faces a litmus test nearly as monumental. The cases before it concern not only the validity of the government's decision to virtually revoke Article 370 of the Constitution – and, with it, the special status that Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) enjoyed – but also the legality of the chilling limitations placed on civil liberties in the region. How the court decides these cases will have a deep bearing on the destiny of democracy in India.

### A dilution of Article 370

Article 370, which pledged relative autonomy in governance to J&K, was premised on the idea that ultimate sovereignty rested with the people. But time after time this basic compact has been weakened by successive regimes at the Centre, including by India's first elected government. For its part, the Supreme Court has invariably overlooked these transgressions, by affirming the Union government's position of hegemony. The presently executed moves, however, push the envelope further, by stripping Article 370 of all its meaning. And this the government has achieved not through debate

and deliberation but through constitutional obfuscation.

When the Supreme Court hears arguments on the questions arising out of these events, the government will likely point to the political nature of the dispute. In defending its decision, the government has already offered a plethora of justifications – in this, the important and critical need to re-assimilate in J&K, Kashmiri Pandits who suffered a harrowing exodus from the State has scarcely found mention.

But regardless of the ends of the government, what ought to be clear is that the rule of law demands that any state action is bound by the Constitution and its limits. After all, that is precisely why we have a Constitution underpinning our democratic republic. When judges exercise their minds on the simple legality of the government's orders it should be evident to them that the quashing of Article 370 is unlawful. And that, for the court, is all that should matter.

Article 370's *raison d'être* is contained in the Instrument of Accession signed by Hari Singh, the then Maharaja of J&K, on October 26, 1947. The provision, in constitutionalising the terms of that accord, stipulated that Parliament could legislate for J&K only over matters concerning external affairs, defence and communications. Where Parliament intended to legislate over additional areas otherwise provided for in the terms of the accession, it could do so by consulting the State government. But where it proposed to enact laws beyond the agreed subjects it required not only the State government's concurrence but also the express ratification of J&K's Constituent Assembly.

The Article, therefore, clearly envisaged the idea that J&K would have a Constitution of its own. Its chief drafter, N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, was conscious of the fact that any permanent arrangement



between the State and the Union could be arrived at only once the State's Constitution was brought into force. It was to put in place an arrangement in the meantime that Article 370 provided a few other stipulations. For example, it granted the President the power to make orders applying specific provisions of the Constitution other than Articles I and 370 to J&K. But even such orders required subsequent ratification by the State's Constituent Assembly. It was thus clear that once J&K's Constitution came into force, together with Article 370, it would form a cohesive means of governing the State.

### Condition for abrogation

This position is further illuminated by Article 370(3). The clause, as Gopalaswami Ayyangar put it to India's Constituent Assembly, "explains the whole of this article". It accorded the President a power to declare either the Article in full or any part of it inoperative on the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State. This recommendation, as Gopalaswami Ayyangar explained, was a "condition precedent" to any effort at abrogating the provision.

No doubt, this original arrangement was meant to be temporary. But it was temporary only in the sense that the structure of governance would eventually be elucidated by the J&K Constitution that the State's Constituent Assembly was meant to frame. On its draft

ing, the Assembly could have well chosen to recommend to the President the abrogation of Article 370 (which could have even meant separation from the Union). But given that no such recommendation was made, the intention was writ large: the Article would continue to represent the sole means of taking India's Constitution into the State. Although this disposition has since been disturbed in various different ways, invariably at the instance of the Indian government, as the Supreme Court recognised as recently as in December 2016, unless the conditions in clause (3) were met, Article 370 would have to remain.

### Misreading Article 367

The Union government has not entirely disputed this position. But in finding itself thwarted by these constraints, what the government has offered us is an illusory and coercive change to the constitutional bargain. Article 367, which provides rules for interpreting the Constitution, has been modified insofar as it applies to J&K by providing that wherever the term "Constituent Assembly of the State" was used in Article 370 it would refer only to the "Legislative Assembly of the State". Fifty as this might sound, the substitution, in effect, does not merely alter Article 367, but it also impinges on Article 370 itself, something which the provision, as Ayyangar was keen to stress on, decidedly prohibits.

Swiftly following this presidential order came a statutory resolution which suggested to Parliament the abrogation of the essential components of Article 370. But because J&K was under President's Rule, Parliament had now stepped into the shoes of the State's Legislative Assembly. This meant that, as a result of the newly shaped Article 367, it also acted as the State's Constituent Assembly. The incongruity could scarcely be more evident. The Union execu-

tive vested in Parliament an unrepresentative constituent power, which meant it could recommend to the President the absolute nullification of Article 370. The upshot of all this was that a decision of portentous significance affecting J&K's political future was made even though the people of the State were afforded neither an opportunity to speak for themselves nor the chance to speak through their own elected representatives.

Our Constitution's brilliance is contained in its fidelity to principles. Those principles are not fungible. Under no circumstances do they license government to use the excuse of a supposed noble end to trump the Constitution's guarantees. The processes concretised by the Constitution are important because they partake in them a vow to pay heed to the consent of the governed. When those processes are allowed to be broken they strike at the understanding that sovereignty rests with the people.

To borrow from Annie Dillard's inimitable words, in this case, casting aside constitutionalism feels like "sliding down the mountain pass and into the region of dread". Already the extraordinary blockade of communication channels in J&K, and the detention of scores of people, including three former Chief Ministers of the State, have been regarded as unexceptional, and, even more ominously, as necessary consequences of the constitutional change. The judgment in *ADM Jabalpur* may well have been overruled since, but the ghosts of the court's darkest days have not fully dissipated. In J&K, the legacy of *ADM Jabalpur* has persisted for decades. Now when the court reviews the government's decisions it may want to recall its past blunders, especially the ones that entrenched its place in the annals of the Emergency's history.

*Suhirth Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court*

## Remembering a painful past

The drive to rewrite the history of the Second World War also accentuates efforts to dilute the global security system



NIKOLAY KUDASHEV

"He who thinks of the past also has the future in mind. He who speaks of the future has no right to forget the past. Having gone through the inferno of many battles I know at first-hand what war means and I do not want mankind to face that again." – Vasily Chuikov, Marshal of the Soviet Union.

As we approach a significant date, the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Second World War, our memories go back to the enormous adversities that the world had gone through in 1939-1945. On this occasion, we grieve the millions of innocent lives lost in Europe, Asia, and Africa, which were engulfed in the flames of hostilities for six long years. We remember the hardships met by our fathers and grandfathers. They sacrificed their lives in the efforts to defeat the adversary and rebuilt the war-torn motherland amidst post-war hunger and extreme austerities.

We also remember the many lessons that the Second World War taught humankind. Today, as we witness how the instruments of collective security come under repeated attacks, let us recall the chain of events that led to the disaster.

By the mid-1930s, the instigators of the upcoming war, the Nazis in Germany, the Fascists in Italy and the imperialists in Japan, were busy getting their economies and armies battle-ready. Even as Italy was spreading its foothold in Africa and the Mediterranean, Japan began the conquest of Asia. Germany, having done away with the limitations imposed by the Treaty of Versailles, was eyeing its share of colonies and the vast resources of the USSR. The young Soviet country came under a grave existential threat.

**Change in tack**  
The Soviet Union realised that the cooperation with Great Britain and France may have prevented the war or at least ensured a quick defeat of the aggressors. Over the next few years, Soviet diplomacy desperately tried to forge international collective security arrangements, based on existing allied pacts as well as mutual interests. As evident from archival docu-



ments, the British conservatives under the leadership of Neville Chamberlain had another plan in mind. Rather than joining hands for peace with the USSR and other countries to thwart the aggressive plans of the Nazis in Europe, they decided to appease Adolf Hitler (to ride the tiger, as Winston Churchill put it). The aim was to isolate the USSR and to channel predatory German energy to the East, towards the Soviet Union. In Asia, the British government encouraged Tokyo to direct its annexationist appetite to the Russian Far East, further away from the British colonies in south China.

In 1938, these sordid intentions resulted in London and Paris signing the infamous Munich Agreement. This ignominious act allowed the dismembering of their

ally, Czechoslovakia. Thus began the countdown to the war. Moscow's attempts to honour its commitments to save Prague, the first victim of imminent German aggression, were rejected. Warsaw, saturated with hatred and distrust to the communists, said no to the Soviet proposals for meaningful talks and joined the shameless feast by annexing the Polish-populated territories of Czechoslovakia.

### The war theatre

In 1939, the stage for the global war was set. By then Germany had determined its aggressive policy by annexing Czechoslovakia, tearing apart the non-aggression pact with Poland, denouncing the maritime treaty with Great Britain and setting up colonial claims against the U.K. and France. Japan had captured large territories of China, and in August, attacked Mongolia in a futile attempt to strike a blow to the USSR. Moscow intensified attempts to reach an agreement with London and Paris. Yet, the British and French negotiators had clear instructions to drag on discussions. The talks reached a deadlock. Facing the threat of a two-front war in total isolation, the USSR was forced to sign the non-aggression pact with Germany, getting some respite before the de-

cisive battle. Today, we witness the drive to rewrite and falsify the history of the Second World War, to whitewash the real culprits and demonise the victors. These attempts accentuate the efforts to dilute the international security system and undermine international law. The lessons of the Second World War teach us about the dangers of such actions. Having made a decisive contribution to the victory over the evil forces, our country consistently reaffirms its readiness to defend peace by strengthening the existing instruments of global stability as laid out in the UN Charter in 1945.

We consider India as an important partner in this endeavour. Together with other like-minded countries in the framework of the UN, G20, BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, we stand strong for the establishment of truly multipolar, just and equal world order. We stand against any illegal unilateral actions, which undermine strategic and regional stability, spread uncertainty and unpredictability in global affairs.

*Nikolay Kudashev is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation in the Republic of India*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### India on Kashmir

It is a clear diplomatic win for India on the sidelines of the G7 summit as far as a resolution of issues between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue are concerned (Page 1, "PM rejects scope for third party mediation in Kashmir", August 27). Even though the Prime Minister seems to have asserted India's stand against third party mediation on bilateral issues with Pakistan boldly, India should not forget that it could be a temporary phase given the quirky nature of international relations and the stand of the U.S.

Dr. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,  
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

### Rights custodian

The article, "Time to strike the gavel" (Editorial page, August 27) raises important issues of individual and

community liberty and the judiciary's responsibility in upholding them. His position is that upholding these rights brooks no delay. But when the court in its assessment decides to give the State time to bring back normalcy, one fails to understand his objection. Either the court upholds his views on what is right or shall be branded as not living up to its responsibilities. Curiously he mentions two episodes, both of which either pertain to politics or the politician. The absence of any episode involving ordinary undertrials speaks volumes about his concern for liberty and rights. The second episode mentioned brings to the fore the contrast that exists between the liberty and rights of ordinary citizens, who have fallen foul of the law, *vis-à-vis* those who are well

connected. Why not advocate the cause of liberty of all individuals who are behind bars for years, awaiting their turn for justice? Yes, the gavel must be struck, but in support of: a quick justice system; a strict timeframe for each case; for disallowing tactical appeals; and certainly against lawyers who are accomplices in derailing the justice system.

V.T. SAMPATH KUMARAN,  
Mysuru

### Amazon fires

A callous attitude towards forest conservation would only spell doom for species dotting our earth. While it is heartening that the international community is taking note of the conflagration, much needs to be done to prevent forest fires in the first place. The inextricable link between

tropical rainforests and their role in mitigating the devastating consequences of global warming cannot be disputed. Sustainable development will only remain an elusive dream so long as environmental degradation remains a norm than an exception.

M. JEVARAM,  
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

### Travel notes

The train friendship, as narrated in the article, "Confession coupe: instant friendships and quick lies" (Open Page, August 25) took me down memory lane. I was working as a surveyor/draughtsman in the Railways; there was survey work connected with bridge constructions which meant my staying away from home at least 25 days in a month. In 1960, while returning to Chennai by Quilon Express after

completing survey work at Ariyalur, I struck up a conversation with a co-passenger in the upper class coach. We discussed almost everything under the sun. He was an accounts assistant in a private company and showered praise on his boss for his empathetic approach towards his subordinates. It was my turn next. I narrated how constant travel was affecting my health as there were irregular meal times and that my constant pleas to my boss to allow me work in office and focus on

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The name of the special judge of the Delhi court that extended the CBI remand of the former minister P. Chidambaram was erroneously given as Arvind Kumar Kuhar in the front-page story headlined "Chidambaram's custody extended by four days" (Aug. 27, 2019). It should have been Ajay Kumar Kuhar. In the same story, the reference to an August 28 order should be corrected to read as August 22 order.

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# Rediscovering development banks

The agenda to set up a development bank is a welcome initiative, but questions remain on its design



R. NAGARAJ

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's press conference on August 23, announcing a slew of measures to boost the economy and financial market sentiments, had an interesting idea. It was about setting up a development bank.

Ms. Sitharaman said: "In order to improve access to long-term finance, it is proposed to establish an organisation to provide credit enhancement for infrastructure and housing projects, particularly in the context of India now not having a development bank and also for the need for us to have an institutional mechanism. So, this will enhance debt flow toward such projects." The announcement could have far-reaching implications for India's financial system. This article explains why.

**What are development banks?** Development banks are financial institutions that provide long-term credit for capital-intensive investments spread over a long period and yielding low rates of return, such as urban infrastructure, mining and heavy industry, and irrigation systems. Such banks often lend at low and stable rates of interest to promote long-term investments with considerable social benefits. Development banks are also known as term-lending institutions or development finance institutions. To lend for long term, development banks require correspondingly long-term sources of finance, usually obtained by issuing long-dated securities in capital market, subscribed by long-term savings institutions such as pension and life insurance funds and post office deposits. Considering the social benefits of such investments, and uncertainties associated with them, development banks are often supported by governments or international institutions. Such support can be in the form of tax incentives and administrative mandates for private sector banks and financial institutions to invest in securities issued by development banks.

Development banks are different



"The political and administrative leadership should carefully weigh in past lessons in designing the institutional structure." FM Nirmala Sitharaman addressing a press conference in New Delhi on August 23. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

from commercial banks which mobilise short- to medium-term deposits and lend for similar maturities to avoid a maturity mismatch – a potential cause for a bank's liquidity and solvency. The capital market complements commercial banks in providing long-term finance. They are together termed as the Anglo-Saxon financial system. Historically, in the U.K. and the U.S., such a debt market took root to fund expansion of the market economy and colonial investments in the 19th century, such as financing of railways worldwide. This market was mostly sweetened by fiscal sops to promote Britain's global political and commercial interests.

Industrialisation of continental Europe and Asia was, however, financed under the aegis of German-type universal banks (providing long- and short-term credit) and state-sponsored (or guaranteed) development banks underwriting the risks of long-term credit. For instance, the earliest and ubiquitous saving institution, namely the post office bank (mostly government-owned and managed), mobilised national savings and channelled them into development banks for long-term investments whose social rates of return were higher than the assured interest rates for depositors. Alexander Gerschenkron, a Ukrainian economic historian at Harvard University, famously theorised that the greater the backwardness of a country, the greater the role of the state in economic development, particularly in providing long-term finance to catch up

with the advanced economies in the shortest possible time.

In the context of the Great Depression in the 1930s, John Maynard Keynes argued that when business confidence is low on account of an uncertain future with low-interest rates, the government can set up a National Investment Bank to mop up the society's savings and make it available for long-term development by the private sector and local governments.

Following foregoing precepts, IFI, previously the Industrial Finance Corporation of India, was set up in 1949. This was probably India's first development bank for financing industrial investments. In 1955, the World Bank prompted the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) – the parent of the largest private commercial bank in India today, ICICI Bank – as a collaborative effort between the government with majority equity holding and India's leading industrialists with nominal equity ownership to finance modern and relatively large private corporate enterprises. In 1964, IDBI was set up as an apex body of all development finance institutions.

As the domestic saving rate was low, and capital market was absent, development finance institutions were financed by (i) lines of credit from the Reserve Bank of India (that is, some of its profits were channelled as long-term credit); and (ii) Statutory Liquidity Ratio bonds, into which commercial banks had to in-

vest a proportion of their deposits. In other words, by sleight of government hand, short-term bank deposits got transformed into long-term resources for development banks. The missing capital market was made up by an administrative fiat.

However, development banks got discredited for mounting non-performing assets, allegedly caused by politically motivated lending and inadequate professionalism in assessing investment projects for economic, technical and financial viability. After 1991, following the Narasimham Committee reports on financial sector reforms, development finance institutions were disbanded and got converted to commercial banks. The result was a steep fall in long-term credit from a tenure of 10-15 years to five years. The development of the debt market has been an article of faith for over a quarter-century, but it has failed to take off – as in most of Europe and industrialising Asia, where the bank-centric financial system continue to prevail.

China's development banks – the Agricultural Development Bank of China, China Development Bank, and the Export-Import Bank of China – have been at the forefront of financing its industrial prowess. After the global financial crisis, these institutions have underwritten China's risky technological investments helping it gain global dominance in IT hardware and software companies. Germany's development bank, KfW, has been spearheading long-term investment in green technologies and for sustainable development efforts requiring long-term capital.

In this light, the Finance Minister's agenda for setting up a development bank is welcome. However, a few hard questions need to be addressed in designing the proposed institution. How will it be financed? If foreign private capital is expected to contribute equity capital (hence part ownership), such an option needs to be carefully analysed, especially in the current political juncture. The design of the governance structure is fraught with dangers with many interest groups at work. One sincerely hopes that the political and administrative leadership carefully weigh in the past lessons to lay a firm foundation for the new institution.

R. Nagaraj is with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai

# Cooking with gas, not wood

Under the PM Ujjwala Yojana, rural areas that still rely on solid fuel can be encouraged in three ways to use clean fuel



AASHISH GUPTA & SANGITA VYAS

tial to reduce rural air pollution and improve health. What can policymakers do to achieve exclusive use of clean fuels in rural India? Three strategies could work: communicating the harms of solid fuels and the benefits of cleaner fuels; reducing the cost of LPG cylinder refills in rural areas; and promoting gender equality within households, particularly in cooking and related tasks.

## Using clean fuel

Like Mr. Dubey, 92% of the respondents in the survey said food cooked on a *chulha* tastes better than food cooked on gas, and more than 86% believed that food cooked on a *chulha* is healthier. Fortunately, only 22% agreed with Mr. Dubey that cooking food on a *chulha* is better for the health of the cook than cooking food on gas. Even among those who believed that cooking on a *chulha* harms health, the harms most often invoked were not respiratory, but to the eyes of the person cooking. A large anti-tobacco style campaign communicating that solid fuels harm respiratory health may change these beliefs. Similarly, advertisements that food cooked on gas can be as tasty and healthy as food cooked on a *chulha* would be helpful.

Reducing LPG prices in rural areas, where residents are poorer and solid fuels are easier to access, would also help. One way is to build on the targeting experience of the National Food Security Act. Under this Act, 75% of rural households are classified as priority households and entitled to subsidised rations. Another 10% of extremely poor households are classified as Antyodaya households, eligible for higher grain amounts at even lower prices. If priority households could become eligible for even higher subsidies in a revamped LPG pricing regime, and Antyodaya households could become eligible for LPG cylinders free of cost, exclusive LPG use would likely be higher.

Finally, public policy must recognise that in households such as Mr. Dubey's, if he was doing his share of the cooking, a complete transition to LPG would have happened already. Our survey asked questions on who cooks food, who makes dung cakes, and who collects wood in rural households. Men rarely cook or make dung cakes in rural households. Current Ujjwala messaging, which focuses on the benefits of clean fuels for women, reinforces this inequality. Advertisements showing that gas is so good that even men can cook with it will challenge both misinformation on LPG and gender inequalities in household tasks.

Aashish Gupta and Sangita Vyas conduct research with r.i.c.e., a research institute for compassionate economics. Gupta is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania, and Vyas is a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin

## Everyday voyeurism in a surveillance state

Privacy is at threat as data gathered from CCTV cameras in cities are being shared online

SERISH NANSETTI

In April, a six-year-old boy sat down on a park bench in an apartment complex in Hyderabad. As it was wobbly, he rocked back and forth on it. In a tragic turn of events, the concrete bench toppled and fell on the boy, killing him. The entire incident, recorded on a CCTV camera, was available on social media within hours. In July, footage of a couple sharing an intimate moment inside the Delhi Metro was uploaded on a pornographic website.

### Demand and supply side

As CCTV cameras multiply across Indian cities, there is also a sharp increase in voyeurism. The masses are constantly hooked to surveillance footage. A voraciously hungry social media and lax ethical standards have turned the surveillance experiment into a voyeur's delight. This is the demand side of the equation.

Most Indian metropolises suffer from a shortage of staff for policing. The millions of CCTV cameras that have been installed help the police curb crime and trace criminals, keep cities clean, and ensure the smooth flow of traffic. Haphazardly parked vehicles can be penalised daily to make offenders fall in line. But instead of using the information to bring to heel criminals and create safer cities, some unethical officials have been leaking data meant for only that purpose to satiate baser, voyeuristic instincts. This is the supply side of the equation.

These images cause a lot of pain for the families and friends of those captured, especially when they see these videos on loop on mobile phones and TV channels.

Notwithstanding these facts, more and more CCTV cameras are being installed. For instance, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation plans to install 1,439 new cameras equipped with automatic number plate recognition facility. The Delhi government is installing CCTV cameras in classrooms, apartment blocks and shops. These numbers are official figures and don't include CCTV

cameras in apartment blocks, parks, shops and restaurant kitchens. More than one lakh CCTV cameras are expected to be installed in Hyderabad, a city with a population of more than 68 lakh. Other Indian metropolises are on a similar path as the prices of CCTV cameras and storage devices have plummeted, and the State's greed for information has soared.

Added advanced technology to this mix and the situation turns scary. Hyderabad and Bengaluru are experimenting with Face Recognition Technology in their airports. Some passengers enrolled voluntarily during the trial period of this technology in Hyderabad in July. The Face Recognition Technology allows passengers to walk in without any documents and pass through multiple checks with their face as the only identifier.

At a time when sharing personal details online, including surveillance material, is fraught with the risk of privacy breaches, India is rushing pell-mell into a data-gathering wonderland.

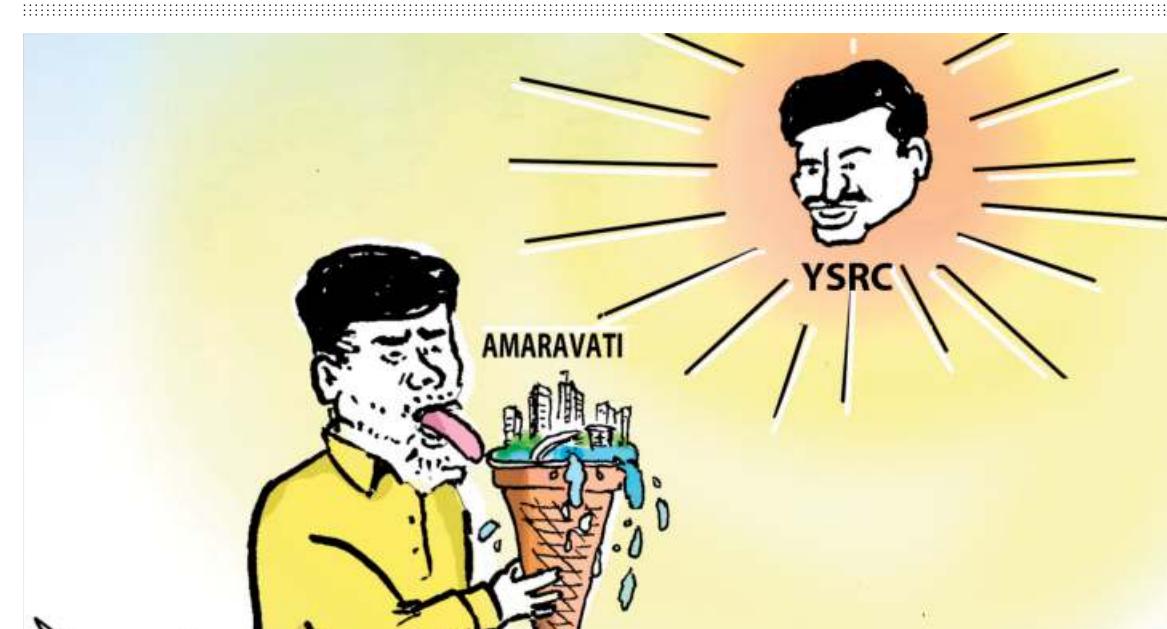
### Stronger data protection laws

A few years ago, Google policy wonk Eric Schmidt had said, "High tech runs three times faster than normal businesses. And the government runs three times slower than normal businesses. So, we have a nine times gap... And so what you want to do is to make sure that the government doesn't get in the way and slow things down."

Some data maven have mapped out the legal boundaries of the Internet so far as information security is concerned. "The online world is not truly bound by terrestrial laws... it's the world's largest ungoverned space," wrote Eric Schmidt and Jared Cohen about digital governance in 2013.

Unless data protection laws catch up quickly with the reality of a pan-India network of CCTVs, we will continue to live in a surveillance state without knowing where this data is going and for what purpose it is being used.

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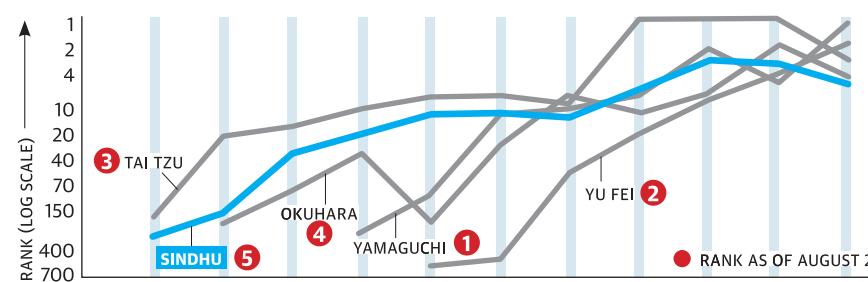
### DATA POINT

## Shutting to the top

Ace Indian shuttler P.V. Sindhu created history on Sunday by bagging India's first gold at the World Championships. She is now ranked fifth in the world and has improved the rate at which she reaches at least the semifinals of tournaments.

By Suman Sen and Varun B. Krishnan

**Career path**  
The graph shows the year-end world ranking\* progression of the current top five women's singles players. Sindhu's career-best was rank 3 in 2017. Japan's Akane Yamaguchi is currently world no. 1. China's Chen Yu Fei has the steepest upward trajectory.

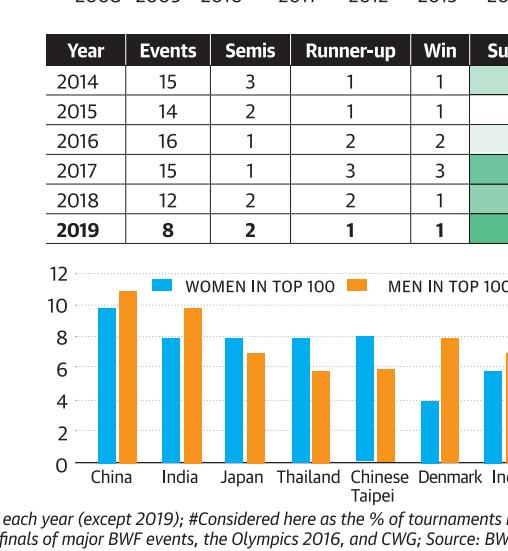


### Upping her game

Sindhu has managed to reach at least the semifinals in half the tournaments she has played in 2019. This is her best conversion rate in the last six years.

### Asian supremacy

Along with Sindhu, Indians feature among the top 100 shuttlers in both the men's and women's singles categories, which is dominated by Asians. China has the highest number.



\*Last ranking in December of each year (except 2019); #Considered here as the % of tournaments in which she reached at least the semifinals of major BWF events, the Olympics 2016, and CWG; Source: BWF



### The Hindu

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** (FROM THE ARCHIVES  
DATED AUGUST 27, 1969, THERE BEING NO  
ISSUE ON AUGUST 28)

### Congress Leaders relax

There was no evidence of any thanksgiving celebration in the Prime Minister's camp today [August 26, New Delhi] over her spectacular victory in the Working Committee last night, since her principal advisers were still gauging the political temperature of the Congress Party to determine whether there was any fight left in the Syndicate to revive the power struggle.

Otherwise the political atmosphere today was generally relaxed with comparatively little activity on either side without any undue jubilation or bitter recrimination. But nobody was jumping to any hasty conclusion that last night's compromise resolution was the end of the story, although the general impression was that the crisis may not erupt in such a dramatic way again. The Prime Minister wanted to give a dinner tonight to the members of the Working Committee to demonstrate the new spirit of conciliation at the top to the rank and file of the party. But unfortunately the Congress President, Mr. Nijalingappa, was confined to bed with low blood pressure after the severe strain of the last fortnight.

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** AUGUST 28, 1919.

### Unblissful Ignorance.

The "Independent" writes: –

In judging Mr. Montagu's recent replies in the House of Commons one is reminded of the limit beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. The obviously indiscriminate and profoundly disproportionate panegyrics, which the Moderates have delighted in bestowing upon him, succeeded in hypnotising the country into the belief that so far as the present Secretary of State is concerned, not a word of criticism against his policy or acts should be breathed lest a loyal and staunch friend should be discredited or have his hands weakened. The natural consequence of this assured immunity from just and fair criticism has apparently been to induce in him a lazy indifference towards matters for which he has a direct responsibility, which is threatening to develop into a callous and confirmed ignorance of them. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that Mr. Montagu's apparent want of knowledge of recent happenings in the Punjab marks a climax of unblissful ignorance, for which one cannot easily recall a parallel.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Questions on RBI's credibility outlandish

"GST rate reduction it is not in my hands. It has to go to the GST Council...the Law committee will have to look at it," she said.

When asked about the stimulus announced last week to revive the sagging auto sector, Ms. Sitharaman said: "I have announced some measures for the automobile sector last week...I have to see how it goes. I'll also have to take some inputs to gauge the impact of those measures."

### Meeting on taxes

Ms. Sitharaman said the meeting with tax officials and traders had chiefly focused on matters pertaining to GST forms, simplifications, and deadline-related

issues. Urging tax officials not to overreach themselves to meet their targets, she said that the tax deadlines that had been fixed were in consultation with all the authorities.

"They are achievable deadlines and realistic. My request to them was not to overreach," she said.

The Minister said the Centre was committed to letting businessmen carrying on their enterprises with a free mind. "Whatever be the size of the business – small, medium, micro, nano or large – we want entrepreneurs to carry on with their business without a worry...this essentially creates jobs and therefore, wealth for the country," she said.

## 'SC's caution ignored in Chidambaram case'

Mr. Singhvi criticised the Delhi High Court for taking a bite of this "forbidden fruit" on August 20. He said the High Court's judgment refusing protection to the senior Congress leader was solely based on the material enclosed in the sealed envelope handed over by the probe agencies.

### Forbidden fruit

To buttress his point, Mr. Singhvi read out the relevant portion of the *ADM Jaibpal* judgment, which said, "What use can a court make of material which it cannot disclose to the detenu and how can it form a judicial opinion on matters not disclose to a party before it? The High Court, at the highest, could satisfy its curiosity by tasting the forbidden fruit but its secret scrutiny of the grounds and of the file containing the relevant information and material cannot enter into its judicial verdict."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, also for Mr. Chidambaram, said documents and records were placed on record in the High Court behind his client's back to seek his arrest and interrogation.

Mr. Sibal said an application had been moved in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the ED to produce the transcripts of Mr. Chidambaram's interrogation.

### Seeks transcripts

"Let them show the transcripts of the questioning done on three former occasions [in December 2018 and January 2019]. We shall see whether they had confronted my client with the documents they showed in sealed covers in the Delhi High Court," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Mr. Singhvi said the main provisions of law attracted in the INX Media case

against Mr. Chidambaram became scheduled offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act only in 2009. The alleged transactions, a year after the alleged FIPB approval (cause of action) was granted in 2007-08.

Mr. Singhvi argued that the provisions under which Mr. Chidambaram had been accused of did not exist at the time of the alleged transaction. "You are trying to paint a person 'kingpin' on the basis of offences that did not exist at the time," he submitted.

**Version 'distorted'**  
He then referred to how the probe agencies presented a "distorted version" that Mr. Chidambaram was evasive in his replies. "During questioning, they expect you to confess or face questions till midnight till you give them an answer they want... Evasion here means 'not giving the answer they want,'" Mr. Singhvi said.

The courts took a call on anticipatory bail based on the 'triple test' of flight risk, non-cooperation and tampering with evidence. "Flight risk virtually never arises in this case. That is not a consideration unless in the case of a terrorist. Non-cooperation does not mean not giving the answer you want. Finally, what can I tamper with in this case which is 11 years old. The documents are already frozen... Besides the man [Chidambaram] was in power till 2014," Mr. Singhvi said.

In his rejoinder filed on Tuesday, Mr. Chidambaram apprehended that ED may use coercive methods in its bid to elicit responses from him.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the ED will commence his counter-arguments on August 28.

## J&K leaders to be freed in phases, process initiated

More high schools will be opened from Wednesday, in addition to 3,037 primary schools and 774 middle schools opened in the past one week.

"There is a significant improvement in one week in attendance of staff," said

Education Director Younis Malik.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Haseeb Mughal said only two incidents of stone-pelting were reported on Tuesday from Srinagar's Hawal and Tatoo Ground area.

## Jawan kills havildar, self at camp in Chennai

Irk over this, Singh later went to the quarters where Joshi was sleeping and shot him with his service rifle. He then turned the weapon on himself and fired three rounds.

Hearing the shots, personnel rushed to the spot and found the duo in pools of blood. Joshi and Singh were rushed to the Military Hospital, Nandambakkam, where they were declared

brought dead. On Tuesday, a formal complaint was lodged by defence authorities with the Pallavaram police. Assistant Commissioner of Police Devaraj visited the scene and conducted an enquiry.

Police personnel took empty casings from the site and blood samples.

The bodies were taken to the Rajiv Gandhi General Hospital for post-mortem.

## Rahul Gandhi accuses govt. of 'stealing' from RBI

Congress says Centre is pushing nation into bankruptcy, demands White Paper

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Modi government over the transfer of cash reserves of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and accused "the government of pushing the country into bankruptcy and stealing money" from the central bank.

While the former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister are "clueless about how to solve the self-created economic disaster." former Commerce Minister Anand Sharma sought a

White Paper on the state of the economy and independent analysis of the government's economic data.

"PM and FM are clueless about how to solve their self-created economic disaster. Stealing from RBI won't work – it's like stealing a Band-Aid from the dispensary and sticking it on a gunshot wound." #RBILooted



"In recent times, the Central Bank in Argentina had transferred its contingency fund to the government and now their economy is destroyed...This government has pushed the country into economic emergency and bankruptcy. The RBI has no room now to intervene if there is a crisis," he said.

Former Minister Jairam Ramesh said, "Ujjit Patel [former RBI Governor] & Viral Acharya [former Deputy Governor] held the fort. They were forced to leave. The fort was breached. The Govt of India now usurps a huge windfall from the RBI going contrary to what the central bank's own think

99% of profits taken away: CPI(M)

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury hit out at the Centre over the record cash transfer by the RBI, alleging the government had "appropriated" 99% of the

profits of India's central banking institution since 2014. A Polit Bureau statement said the RBI was a "lender of the last resort" and condemned the manner in which its reserves were being utilised.

tank CAFRAL had said. Fiscal breathing space but at what and whose cost?"

Other Congress leaders and spokespersons played around with acronym RBI to target the Modi government.

Party spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "Modi 2.0 has converted the 'R' in RBI from 'Reserve' to

'Ravaged'! Contingency Reserve of RBI meant for extreme financial emergencies and war-like situations is being used by BJP Govt to bury its monumental mess on economic front! BJP has finished RBI's credibility!"

In another tweet, he asked, "Is this fiscal prudence or fiscal hara-kiri?"

## Chidambaram's family seeks proof for charges

'Govt. is bent on demonising him'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram's family on Tuesday dared the Union government to produce even a shred of evidence of undisclosed bank account, property or shell companies and accused the government of demonising him.

"We are therefore astounded by allegations of properties in multiple countries, multiple bank accounts, numerous shell companies etc. These are chapters plucked out of ghost stories and one day these ghosts will be buried," it said.

Appealing for restraint and dignity from the media, the family said, "Chidambaram has been in public life for nearly 50 years and his impeccable honesty, work as well as contribution cannot be wiped out by a campaign of vilification".

"We challenge the government to produce a shred of evidence in support of one undisclosed bank account, one undisclosed property or one shell company anywhere in the world," the statement said.

The family possessed enough wealth and did not crave for money through unlawful ways, it noted.

In a separate but similar statement, Mr. Karti stressed that all his assets were declared and he could lose his Lok Sabha membership if he was dishonest about his filings.

"I have contested two elections, one successfully. I am obliged to publicly declare my assets and I have done so," he said.

## Words of comfort



Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoling family members of the late BJP leader Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ ANI

## U.S. religious panel anxious about 'potential abuse' of NRC

Process could be used to 'render stateless' Muslim communities, it says

**SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN**  
WASHINGTON

A U.S. federal government bipartisan commission that looks into matters of international religious freedom has said it is concerned about the finalisation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) by August 31 could undermine religious freedom for

Assam. United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Chairman Tony Perkins and one of its commissioners Anurima Bhargava said the process to finalise the NRC by August 31 could undermine religious freedom for

vulnerable minorities and potentially be used to "render stateless" Muslim communities in the northeast.

"Freedom of religion or belief for India's diverse faith communities and respect for religious pluralism have long been a bedrock of Indian society, values enshrined in the constitution. However, we remain concerned with the potential abuse of the Na-

tional Register of Citizens in Assam and the resulting introduction of a religious requirement for citizenship, which are contrary to the ideals of religious freedom in India," Mr. Perkins said.

"We remain troubled by any government policies or actions that have the effect, whether intentional or not, of undermining religious freedom for vulnerable reli-

gious minorities. The NRC verification process must not become a means to target and render stateless the Muslim community in northeastern India," Ms. Bhargava said.

"Proposed policies that suggest that Muslims – and Muslims alone – will face a higher burden for verification, along with worrisome rhetoric, create a negative

and potentially dangerous climate for the Muslim community in northeastern India." A USCIRF press release also made reference to a June 2018 letter written by four U.N. special rapporteurs to then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, expressing concern that the NRC process could potentially disenfranchise the region's Muslims.

## How many likely to be out of NRC?

Predictions have varied from a minimum of 10 lakh to a maximum of 20 lakh

**RAHUL KARMAKAR**  
GUWAHATI

With just four days to go for the publication of the final updated National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, the State is rife with debates and predictions of the number of people likely to be excluded.

The figures have varied from a minimum of 10-12 lakh to a maximum of 20-22 lakh – roughly half of the 41,10,169 mentioned in the two exclusion lists. However, most analysts agree the NRC-exclusion list is likely to be split between migrant Muslims of Bengali origin and non-Muslims, a majority of them Bengal-origin Hindus.

Lawyers who have represented stakeholders in filing petitions at the Supreme Court, which is monitoring the updating exercise since 2013, hazard a guess "have a hunch" that the number of people to be excluded from the final NRC would be around the 20 lakh mark.



Women waiting to submit NRC documents. ■ FILE PHOTO

"give or take a lakh or two". Their belief is based on the apex court's rejection of a few petitions while upholding NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela's suggestions from time to time.

"Two judgements – one on November 1, 2018, and the other on July 23 this year – should lead to the exclusion of about 12 lakh people. The first judgement was where the apex court agreed to the State Coordinator's argument that legacy data were exchanged or traded.

The second pertained to excluding declared foreigners, doubtful (D) voters, and people with pending cases in Foreigners' Tribunals along with members of their families," a lawyer of one of the litigant groups said.

Data provided by the State government less than a month ago said there are pending cases against 2,07,311 people while 1,13,738 people were marked D-voters by the Election Commission and 1,17,164 (of whom 29,855 were deported) declared foreigners by the Foreigners' Tribunals.

"Some 50,000 people inadvertently used wrong legacy codes while a few thousand more allegedly traded such code. If we take an average four members per family of people falling in the categories the two orders involve, the number comes to 12 lakh," the lawyer said.

"If we take the 3.96 lakh people who did not re-apply after being excluded from NRC in July 2018, a realistic figure that appears is about 20 lakh out of the total 3.29 crore applicants," said an activist who helped poor and marginalised people with filing NRC applications.

"We request kind-hearted philanthropists to save him, kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D./M.O. Favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Master MD Shad S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN0001865, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act. Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (Admin Division) Flat No. A4, Ceeiros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: [savepoorlives@gmail.com](mailto:savepoorlives@gmail.com). Our Website: [www.savepoorlives.com](http://www.savepoorlives.com) Donation given to patients upto March 2019 For Rs. 4,26,89,335- and Scholarship 7,30,800/-.

## Paralegals trained to help those excluded

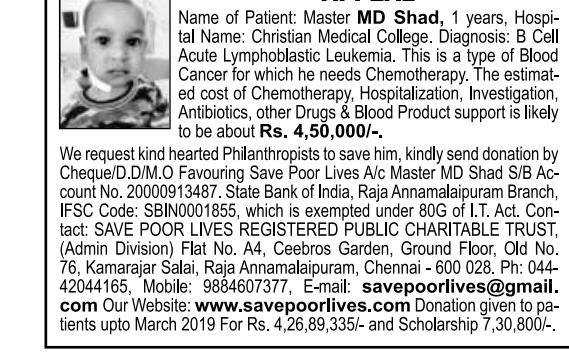
**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GUWAHATI

Some 100 paralegals in Assam have been trained to help defend the citizenship of people whose names will be excluded from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which is to be published on August 31.

The three-day training in Guwahati to "navigate the complex issue of citizenship after the publication of the list" was organised by Citi-

zens for Justice and Peace (CJP), a non-governmental organisation.

"We do not want any genuine Indian citizen to suffer on account of lack of proper legal advice. CJP has about 500 volunteers working across 19 districts. Nearly 100 of them were trained in the workshop. More workshops have been planned in other regions of the State," CJP secretary Teesta Setalvad said.



Name of Patient: Master MD Shad, 1 years, Hospital Name: Christian Medical College, Diagnosis: B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This is a type of Blood Cancer for which he needs Chemotherapy, Hospitalization, Investigation, Antibiotics, other Drugs & Blood Product support is likely to be about Rs. 4,50,000/-.

We request kind-hearted philanthropists to save him, kindly send donation by Cheque/D.D./M.O. Favouring Save Poor Lives A/c Master MD Shad S/B Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raja Annamalaiapuram Branch, IFSC Code: SBIN0001865, which is exempted under 80G of I.T. Act. Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (Admin Division) Flat No. A4, Ceeiros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaiapuram - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: [savepoorlives@gmail.com](mailto:savepoorlives@gmail.com). Our Website: [www.savepoorlives.com](http://www.savepoorlives.com) Donation given to patients upto March 2019 For Rs. 4,26,89,335- and Scholarship 7,30,800/-.

# Calls for action from Kashmir's walls

With Internet and mobile access suspended, posters have emerged as crucial communication tools

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

Posters have emerged as the new means of communication in Jammu and Kashmir as the communication shut down enters the third week.

A walk in the interiors of Sora, located in the periphery of Srinagar, which has turned into a bastion of demonstrations since the August 5 decision to revoke J&K's special status, shows posters on almost every pole calling for "civil disobedience." Roads are barricaded with tins, sewer pipes and tree trunks. Outsiders' credentials are scrutinised by youth manning the barricades.

One poster in Urdu reads: "No employee should cooperate with the present government. Pay no taxes. Boycott paying bills for electricity and water." It ends with a call to march to the residence of Mr. Geelani in Hyderpora on August 28.

These posters are being attributed to Hurriyat patriarch Syed Ali Geelani but the security agencies dismiss any direct role in these protest programmes. Mr. Geelani remains under house arrest and his second rung and workers, down to his family cook, has been booked and arrested, an official said.

A senior police officer told *The Hindu* that the security forces are not taking these



**Strong message:** Sora has turned into a hub of demonstrations since August 5. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

posters "lightly as they have the potential to mobilise street protests in current situation".

"We fear a local, amorphous street leadership is emerging in many pockets of Kashmir. The protests are steered properly in many locations. It might get more organised," he added.

A similar poster campaign calling for a march to the UN offices in Srinagar, forced authorities to clamp down on movement and impose restrictions last Friday.

In contrast, posters in pockets of south Kashmir's Pulwama district list the benefits of the suspension of Article 370. "The suspension has led to the introduction of the Right to Education, mid-

day meals in schools, new central health schemes, central schemes for farmers. J&K will see equal development of Pondicherry. The land prices will go up," reads the poster.

These contrasting posters have become the new weapons in the war of narratives in Jammu and Kashmir, seeking to shape opinion of the local people. However, it has unnervered Hurriyat supporters too, with fears of an uncontrolled leadership taking over the streets.

A police official said there are forces desperate to fill the void by issuing statements on behalf of an incarcerated Mr. Geelani.

Sources said the Hurriyat issued its first formal state-

ment, attributed to Mr. Geelani on the current situation, on August 23 from "unknown location".

"India's intention is to force a demographic change in J&K and create colonies for settlers in violation of the international law. Courage, patience and discipline are weapons of defenceless," reads Mr. Geelani's statement. It also called for "organisation of peaceful protests and boycott by State [government] employees".

Calling on Pakistan to "display action", Mr. Geelani said, "If Pakistan gets ensconced in so-called pragmatism and fails to act decisively this time, neither history nor your future generations will forgive you."

## Pak. may fully shut airspace

MEHMAL SARFARAZ  
LAHORE

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan is considering a complete closure of air space to India, Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry said on Tuesday amid growing tensions between the two countries following New Delhi's decision to end Kashmir's special status. He added that Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to what is going on in Kashmir.

## Pak. shelling hits houses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Scores of residential structures were damaged in a "major" ceasefire violation by Pakistan in Bandipora's Gurez area on Tuesday. Meanwhile, two persons from a nomadic community were killed by unknown gunmen in a forest area in south Kashmir, while two militants were arrested in north Kashmir.

## Call to avoid escalation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UNITED NATIONS

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres urged all parties to avoid any escalation in Kashmir during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently. "For the Secretary-General's part, he reiterated the message that he has been saying publicly, and that's basically a need for all parties to avoid any sort of escalation," said Stephane Dujarric, the UN chief's spokesman.

"What the PCI Chairman did was totally unjustified, the opposite of what was intended to be done, it is a dystopian vision of press freedom. There has been some resistance from the media, but not enough. This concerns not only the news media but also citizens who stand for democratic rights and values embodied in the Constitution," Mr. Ram said. "If I were him, I would consider it as a matter of honour to resign (as PCI Chairman) immediately," he said, replying to a question.

T.M. Krishna, carnatic music singer, said the government of India had, through a systematic plan, shut down Kashmir, and



Former PCI member K. Amarnath, THG Publications Private Ltd Chairman N. Ram and Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna at the press meet in Chennai on Tuesday. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

## PCI backing J&K curbs undemocratic: N. Ram

A dystopian vision of media freedom'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

The action of the Press Council of India's Chairman supporting the government restriction on communication in Jammu and Kashmir was totally unjustified and provided a dystopian vision of media freedom, N. Ram, Chairman, *The Hindu* Group Publishing Private Limited, said.

Speaking at a meeting to condemn the PCI's "undemocratic and unconstitutional move to endorse curbs on media freedom in Kashmir", Mr. Ram said it was shocking that the PCI—that is supposed to safeguard freedom of the press, independence of the press, freedom of journalists—had taken a position supporting the communication blockade in the Valley.

"What the PCI Chairman did was totally unjustified, the opposite of what was intended to be done, it is a dystopian vision of press freedom. There has been some resistance from the media, but not enough. This concerns not only the news media but also citizens who stand for democratic rights and values embodied in the Constitution," Mr. Ram said. "If I were him, I would consider it as a matter of honour to resign (as PCI Chairman) immediately," he said, replying to a question.

T.M. Krishna, carnatic music singer, said the government of India had, through a systematic plan, shut down Kashmir, and

muzzled its people to ensure their voices are not heard.

"This is a question of fundamental rights of the citizens of the country," he said.

Tamil Nadu Women's Coordination Committee-convenor V. Geetha said it was shocking that the PCI voluntarily said it would keep quiet on the issue.

Several journalist bodies have demanded that PCI Chairman Justice Prasad, withdrew his plea in the Supreme Court supporting the clampdown on media in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior journalists met at the Press Club of India on Tuesday afternoon to protest the shutdown of communication lines and curbs on media, in an event organised by the Press Association of India.

The journalists highlighted how Mr. Prasad's decision to move the apex court seeking to intercede in a plea filed by Ms. Bhasin supporting the government's position is a violation of the existing norms.

The rules say the Chairman does have the discretionary powers, but any decision made by him has to be vetted by the Council later.

The Editors Guild in a statement said: "The Guild expects the Chairman of the Press Council of India to rescind his unilateral decision, apparently taken without consulting Council members, to intercede in a case in the Supreme Court concerning extreme and unrelenting restrictions placed on the media in Jammu and Kashmir."

## Steps to bring normalcy in J&K discussed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on Tuesday to discuss "initiatives to be taken to expedite return of normalcy" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Kashmir Valley has been under severe restrictions including communication blockade since August 5 after Home Minister Amit Shah moved two Bills in the Rajya Sabha to read down Article 370 that had granted special status to J&K and

downgrade and bifurcate the State into two Union Territories.

A senior government official said, "Meetings were held with various departments to assess the implementation of central schemes in J&K and initiatives to be taken to expedite return of normalcy."

Mr. Bhalla, who took charge last week as the Home Secretary, discussed the implementation of the ₹80,000 crore package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 with

Secretaries of other Ministries.

"Earlier, the J&K administration had to take measures to ensure supply of essentials and other stock to Ladakh during winter as several roads are cut off due to inclement weather. Now, the arrangements will have to be done by the Centre," said the official.

The Centre and the J&K administration have insisted that the situation is "normal and peaceful" in the Valley.

Senior J&K police officer Imtiaz Hussain said on

Twitter that since August 4, there have been two killings in Kashmir.

"One person [was] killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists and another truck driver by Pakistan-instigated rioters," he said.

In another tweet, he added that in total there were four killings as "one terrorist and one policeman were killed in a gunfight in Baramulla." "There is no so-called siege or lockdown. People are free to move and there is a huge rush on the roads," he said.

between the two countries.

Minister of Oil and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan will be in Moscow later this week, which officials said was for negotiations on expansion of energy cooperation, including long-term gas supplies. Next week, India and Russia are likely to seal a military logistics support agreement, the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS).

*(The writer is in Moscow on the invitation of the Russian government for the MAKS-2019 air show)*

would not only consolidate traditional areas of cooperation—defence, nuclear, space and energy—but also international cooperation.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Moscow on Tuesday for talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov to finalise preparations for the summit meeting. He will speak at the Valdai discussion club on Indo-Pacific and will hold discussions with Mr. Lavrov on Wednesday.

Mr. Varma said the special and privileged partnership



A file photo of PM Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

between the two countries.

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## Nirmohi Akhara drops objection to separate title suit

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Nirmohi Akhara told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it is not opposed to a separate suit for title filed by the minor Ayodhya deity for the disputed Ramjanmabhoomi.

The Akhara has been facing questions from the Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi on its claim over the property, saying it directly challenged the separate claim of the deity, Ram Lalla, filed in a suit through the latter's next friend.

"The stand of Nirmohi Akhara is that it will not press the issue of maintainability of suit number 5 [filed by the deity through its next friend Deoki Nandan Agrawal] provided that they [lawyers for the deity] also do not dispute 'shebabit' right of Akhara," senior advocate Sushil Jain for the Akhara submitted.

The Bench has been critical of the persistent stand taken by Mr. Jain that the suit of the deity is not maintainable as the Akhara alone has the right as 'shebabit' to institute the law suit on behalf of the deity.

The Minister said Sanskrit was the oldest language in the world and called upon the graduating students to prove that.

## Ram Setu built by our engineers: HRD Minister

He calls for more research on Sanskrit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan Nishank on Tuesday said Ram Setu was built by Indian engineers and Sanskrit was the oldest language in the world. The Minister urged engineers to conduct research on Ram Setu and Sanskrit.



the audience to say whether his remarks on Ram Setu were correct or not. When the Minister was asked about his remarks during a press conference, he said, "What I meant there was a call for new research on Ram Setu." The Minister said Sanskrit was the oldest language in the world and called upon the graduating students to prove that.

## Office of the Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Baripada.

Tel. Ph. 06792-252682, e-mail: eephbaripada2016@gmail.com

### Cancellation of e-Tender Call Notice

No. EEPHPD-04 of 2019-20 dt. 19.08.2019

144-C:

13016/11/0002/1920

The e-tender call notice issued vide Bid Identification No.04 of 2019-20 dt. 19.08.2019 of the Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Baripada is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer, P.H. Division, Baripada.

128-B:

Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 05 / 2019-20

1. The Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building works as detailed below :

2. Nature of work : Building works

3. No. of work : 01 no.

4. Bid Cost : ₹.10,000/- (each)

5. Class of Contractor : Special / Super

6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website : From dt.05.09.2019 to 17:00 Hours of dt.20.09.2019.

7. Date of Opening of Bid : Dt. 21.09.2019 at 11:30 AM

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

34117/11/0018/1920 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

12.09.2019

## GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

O/o. The Superintending Engineer (Electrical), GHMC, Hyderabad

RFQ No.02/SE (Elec)/VGHMC/2019-20, Dated: 27.08.2019

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation invites Proposals for Design, supply, installation and commissioning of Decorative, Facade LED lights with 24 Months Defect Liability Period and annual maintenance for (5) years at Mozamjahi Market in Jambagh Division, Circle-14, Khairatabad Zone, GHMC.

Download Start Date 28-08-2019 from 05.00 PM

Pre-Bid Meeting Date 04-09-2019 at 3.00 PM

Uploading of replies to pre-bid queries 07-09-2019 after 3:00 PM

Last Date & Time for submission of Bids 23-09-2019 up to 3.30 PM.



Be careful, Netanyahu tells Hezbollah, Lebanon

JERUSALEM  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned Lebanon, Hezbollah's chief and the head of Iran's elite Quds Force to "be careful" with their words and actions. "...the state of Israel knows how to defend itself well, and to repay its enemies," he said. **AFP**

**Beijing confirms arrest of Australian for spying**

BEIJING  
An Australian academic has been arrested in China for spying, Beijing said on Tuesday, prompting Canberra to demand that the country uphold "basic standards" of justice. Yang Jun, who also goes by his pen name Yang Hengjun, was detained in January. Beijing said he was formally arrested last Friday and that the case was being "further processed." **AFP**

**Sri Lankan Islamic clerics seek clarity on veil ban**

COLOMBO  
Islamic clerics in Sri Lanka asked Muslim women on Tuesday to continue to avoid wearing face veils until the government clarifies whether they are once again allowed now that emergency rule has ended four months after blasts rocked the nation. **AP**

**U.K. Oppn. agrees on plan to prevent no-deal Brexit**

LONDON  
Opposition parties in the U.K. on Tuesday agreed to work together to pass a law to ensure that Prime Minister Boris Johnson does not pull the country out of the EU without an agreement in place. "We are going to come together and do the right thing by our country," said Anna Soubry, leader of the Independent Group for Change party.

**+ No talks with Trump until Iran sanctions are lifted: Rouhani**

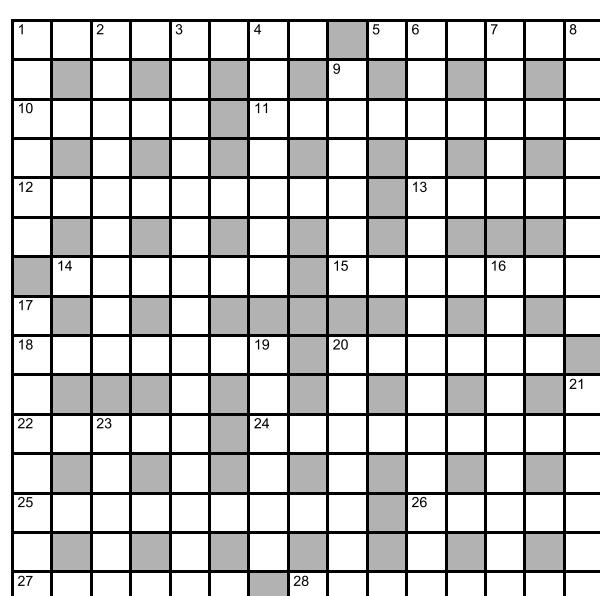
'Key for positive change in hands of Washington'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TEHRAN**

President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday told the United States to "take the first step" by lifting all sanctions against Iran, dampening the likelihood of meeting his U.S. counterpart President Donald Trump.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the prospects for such a meeting were "unimaginable" even if the U.S. rejoins a landmark nuclear deal with Iran.

Mr. Trump had said, less than 24 hours earlier, that he was ready to meet with Mr. Rouhani within weeks, in a

**THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12716****ACROSS**

- Makes a whistling sound to attract female aboard steamer (8)
- Intimidated by a fellow with rifle (6)
- Plan journey to cover historical French province (5)
- Malfunction resulting from energy commission accepting faulty way (2,7)

12 Performer exposed chasing female? Exclude from consideration (6,3)

13 Enemy capturing Nazi corps in ditch (5)

14 Opening bowler trapping Kohli at last abuses heartily (6)

15 The rogue interrupting head is a source of annoyance (3,4)

18 Allege darling's concealing a little romp and break off (7)

20 Liaisons with president in fancy suite (3-3)

22 Relationship with a model in South American city (5)

24 What a trekker might do to get lost? (4,14)

25 Hunts and burns one escaping around tunnel (9)

26 Caution socialist about welcoming alien (5)

27 Scenes featuring hot actresses essentially in films (6)

28 Foul demand to conceal heartless crime (8)

**■ DOWN**

- Strong fellow in store knocks out hard crooks (6)
- Time to soothe kid (5)

(set by Dr. X)

2 Poor job by England, conceding a vital goal (9)

3 Mexico's borders walled by Trump - he's often terribly impulsive (4-2-3-6)

4 Ghastly snores around middle of night capture attention (7)

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16 One chosen for job, primate secures position close to Pope (9)

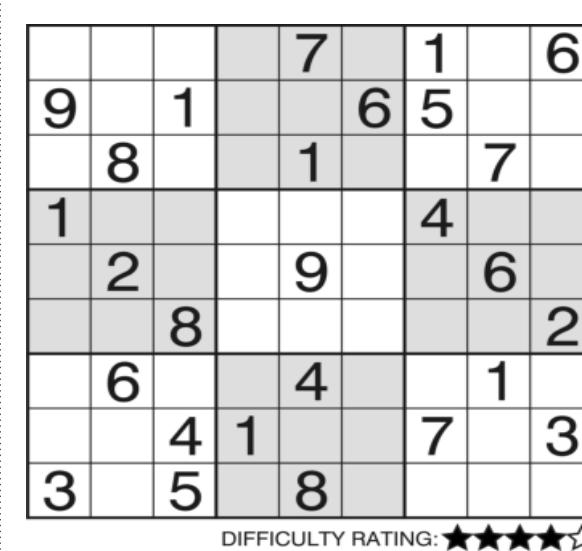
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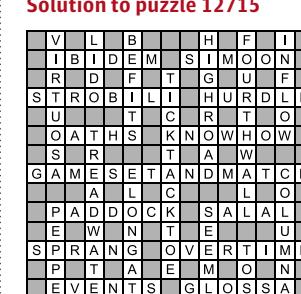
21 Live alongside one gutter in Mediterranean city (6)

23 Time to soothe kid (5)

**SUDOKU**

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12715



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

**Brazil open to G7 Amazon aid if Macron 'withdraws insults'**

President Jair Bolsonaro wavers on \$20 mn offer



Charred remains: A view of a burnt area of the Amazon rainforest near Porto Velho on August 26. **AFP**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PORTO VELHO  
Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro said Tuesday he was open to discussing G7 aid for fighting fires in the Amazon if his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron "withdraws insults" made against him.

Mr. Bolsonaro's remarks come amid an escalating war of words with Mr. Macron over the worst fires in years that have sparked a global outcry and threatened to torpedo a huge trade deal between the European Union and South American countries.

Hours earlier, a top Brazilian official had rejected the G7 countries' offer of \$20 million to combat the fires devastating the forest in Brazil and Bolivia, saying Mr. Macron should take care of "his home and his colonies."

"Mr. Macron must withdraw the insults he made against me," Mr. Bolsonaro told reporters in the capital

Brasilia. "To talk or accept anything from France, with the best possible intentions, he has to withdraw these words, and from there we can talk."

Mr. Macron and Mr. Bolsonaro have repeatedly locked horns in the past week, with the French leader accusing Mr. Bolsonaro of lying to him about his commitments on climate change and vowing to block the EU-Mercosur trade deal involving Brazil that took decades to negotiate.

The latest official figures show 1,659 new fires started in Brazil between Sunday and Monday, taking the total this year to 82,285 - the highest since at least 2013 - even as military aircraft and troops help battle the blazes. More than half of the fires are in the massive Amazon basin.

**Trump backs Bolsonaro**  
U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday endorsed Mr. Bolsonaro's response to the fires and pledged "full and complete" U.S. support.

Mr. Bolsonaro "is working very hard on the fires and in all respects doing a great job for the people of Brazil - Not easy," Mr. Trump tweeted. "He and his country have the full and complete support of the USA!"

**J&J ordered to pay \$572 million for opioid addiction crisis****AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING**

Beijing on Tuesday voiced "strong dissatisfaction" with a joint statement issued by the G7 leaders, who backed Hong Kong's autonomy and called for calm after months of civil unrest.

"We have repeatedly stressed that Hong Kong's affairs are purely China's internal affairs and that no foreign government, organisation or individual has the right to intervene," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said in Beijing.

Trade war with China is taking a toll on exports

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON**

An Oklahoma judge on Monday ordered U.S. healthcare giant Johnson & Johnson to pay \$572 million in damages for its role in fostering the State's opioid addiction crisis.

In the first civil trial of a drugmaker over an epidemic that has caused hundreds of thousands of overdose deaths, judge Thad Balkman said the company and its Janssen pharmaceuticals division will fund an "abatement plan" for care for addicts, families and communities ravaged by the crisis. J&J is the first pharmaceutical company tried over the opioid crisis, which fueled over 70,000 overdose deaths in 2017 alone.

There are some 2,000 outstanding lawsuits against many drugmakers and distributors filed by state and local governments, many overwhelmed by the costs of an epidemic that has only slightly abated.

Trade war with China is taking a toll on exports



Donald Trump

lied on for a significant source of income have evaporated. Farm bankruptcy filings in the year through June were up 13% from 2018.

**Political problem**

The predicament of farmers is becoming a political problem for Mr. Trump as he heads into an election year.

While there are few signs of an imminent blue wave in farm country, a growing number of farmers say they are losing patience with the President's approach.

Mr. Trump, who regularly brags about an economic boom, has in some cases made matters worse. He recently dismissed sales of American wheat, suggesting that Japan was buying it only as a favour to the U.S. And his frequent tweets insisting that "farmers are starting to do great again" have rubbed

some agriculture groups the wrong way.

"We're not starting to do great again," Brian Thalman, president of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association, told Mr. Perdue at the event. "Things are going downhill and downhill." The administration has tried to mollify farmers by rolling out two financial aid packages totalling \$28 billion.

But as the trade fight gets uglier, farmers are beginning to panic. Last week, Mr. Trump said he would increase tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese imports to 30% and impose a 15% tax on another \$300 billion worth later this year. China has already said it will no longer buy American agricultural products and announced on Friday that it would raise tariffs on \$75 billion of exports from the U.S. **NY TIMES**

Trade war with China is taking a toll on exports

**ALAN RAPPEPORT  
WASHINGTON**

Peppered with complaints from farmers fed up with President Donald Trump's trade war, Sonny Perdue found his patience wearing thin.

Mr. Perdue, the Agriculture Secretary and the guest of honour at the annual Farmfest gathering in southern Minnesota this month, tried to break the ice with a joke. "What do you call two farmers in a basement?" Mr. Perdue asked near the end of a testy hour-long town-hall style event. "A whine cellar."

A cascade of boos ricocheted around the room. American farmers have become collateral damage in a trade war

that Mr. Trump began to help manufacturers and other companies he believes have been hurt by China's "unfair" trade practices.

More than a year into the trade dispute, sales of American soybeans, pork, wheat and other agricultural products to China have dried up as Beijing retaliates against Mr. Trump's tariffs on Chinese imports. Lucrative contracts that farmers long

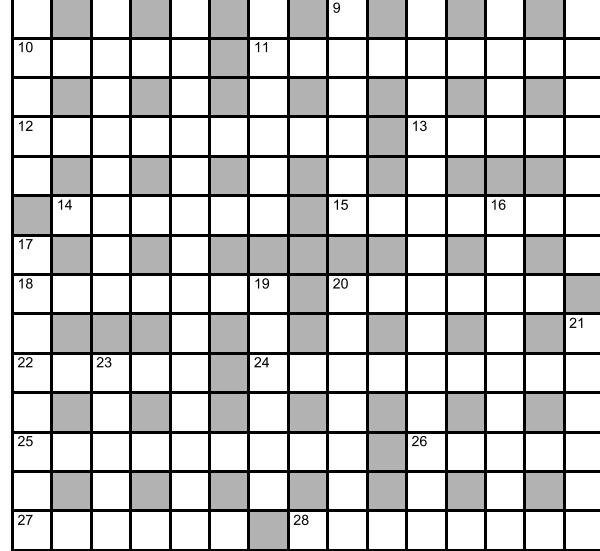
expected to bring in a significant source of income have evaporated. Farm bankruptcy filings in the year through June were up 13% from 2018.

**Faith****The three gunas**

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna tells Arjuna about the three qualities - sattva, rajas and tamas. Sometimes it happens that sattva is the dominant quality in a person. In such a case, rajas and tamas are suppressed. The same can happen in the case of the other two qualities. And so, if rajas dominates, then sattva and tamas remain subdued. If tamas dominates, then sattva and rajas are subdued.

All three qualities are present in prakrti. A jivatma experiences sorrow, joy etc, because of its association with prakrti. Whether a person has sattva as the dominant quality, or one of the other two as the dominant quality depends on his karma, and also the food he consumes. We can come to a conclusion about what guna is foremost in a person by observing his behaviour, explained Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse.

When a person's jnanendriyas reflect pure, unconfused knowledge, then we can conclude that in the case of that person, sattva predominates. A person in whom rajas dominates, exhibits certain characteristics. He is unwilling to spend his money. He will not give even to a deserving man, even though he has the means to give. He indulges in aimless activities. He does things with a view to reaping rewards in future in this life and in the next life too. He is restless. The man with rajas also exhibits sprha - a desire for sense objects. As for the person with tamas predominating, he lacks knowledge. Excess sleep being a characteristic of a person with tamas, how can he be expected to devote time to learning? He is lazy, and lacks concentration. He cannot distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong. What a person will experience in his next birth is determined by which quality is foremost in him at the time of his death.

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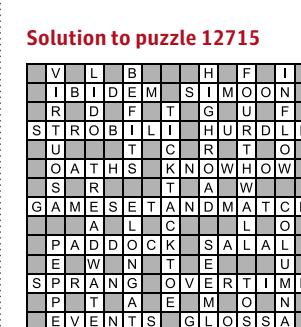
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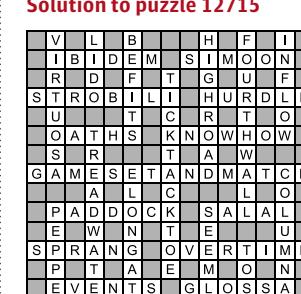
**■ DOWN**

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Solution to puzzle 12715



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



# Are you watching those leadership traps?

They are sometimes concealed by common sense, logic and good intentions

PRINCE FREDERICK

A trap works because it is unseen and engineered into what seems to be safe ground. Leadership traps function the same way. The course is paved with common sense, and protected by the hedge of logic. However, ironically, sometimes focussing too hard on promoting approaches that seem to be supported by logic may cause that tumble down the abyss. It can be mystifying, if not crushing. How can bad come out of something good?

## The efficiency trap

The efficiency trap is widely acknowledged as the most common leadership trap. It continues to be common, because it continues to entrap teams, despite sufficient knowledge about how it works.

Prof. Sunney Tharappan, founder-director, College for Leadership and Human Resource Development, narrates a story that educationist V.K.R.V. Rao (who was education minister at the Centre in the 1970s) is credited with.

"Expecting their subordinates to be like them is a trap team leaders can easily slip into. V.K.R.V. Rao would tell this story about how a principal asked a clerk to prepare a certificate. The clerk was all day about it, and even after 30 minutes, he had made little headway with the work. The angry principle made short work of the assignment, finishing it in three minutes flat, and bellowed at the clerk, 'I did it in three minutes, and even 30 minutes isn't sufficient for you!' To this, the clerk would say, 'If I could do it in three minutes, I would be in your place. A simple and powerful story. If everyone is just as efficient, what is the need for the leader?"

## The experience trap

The leader has covered a lot of ground, and is keen on sharing all his experience with subordinates. He is clearly well-intentioned. The question: Does this approach help in all situations?



FILE PHOTO: AP

His experience is certainly relevant. However, he may be offering too much of a good thing, if he does not possess the leadership intelligence to discern when his experience isn't relevant.

"You achieve the highest level of knowledge only when it is crowned by humility. A leader should inhabit a paradoxical state: He should know he knows enough, but also know his knowledge isn't complete.

**C**A leader should inhabit a paradoxical state: He should know he knows enough, but also know his knowledge isn't complete.

will contribute in small but effective measures in all departments of the game. Any cricket captain would agree that their contribution, lower down the batting or bowling order, can mean the difference between victory and defeat.

## The contrarian trap

An effective leader will encourage the contrarian view, and allow his subordinates to question his conclusions. However, discussions that encourage contrarian views from subordinates should come with a filter mechanism. Sometimes, it is a thin line that divides the expression of a contrarian view and the display of one-upmanship.

Says Prof. Tharappan, "Before inviting contrarian views, a leader should have done some reality checking, which is about being clear about the principles, values, situations, abilities and opportunities involved. He should know whether a contrarian view is in line with the company's principles and values. Being aware of the team's abilities will show him what view to entertain, and what not to."

the time. Team India's campaign in the 2019 ICC World Cup illustrates this. Yet, leaders can be obsessed with putting the "perfect team" in place.

Prof. Tharappan explains how to avoid this trap.

"A good leader is someone who has analysed the competence, intellectual content and attitude of all the members of the team, and created a matrix of the total resourcefulness available to him. He will base his plans on this resourcefulness, streaming and using it wherever and whenever necessary. The ordinary and the average will also have a place in this matrix, as it is well thought-out."

In cricket, there is a term called "bits-and-pieces players", who may never achieve legend-status in any area of specialisation, but

**The perfection trap**  
The perfect team is a figment of the imagination. Even carefully hand-picked and highly-competent teams can't fire on all cylinders, all

the time. Team India's campaign in the 2019 ICC World Cup illustrates this. Yet, leaders can be obsessed with putting the "perfect team" in place.

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# Gender gap exists in STEM careers: survey

There seems to be a generational gap and gender divide within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers in India, says a survey by Emerson.

According to a press release about the survey, 84% of Indians believe STEM jobs are important for the future. But fewer Gen Z respondents said they felt encouraged to pursue a STEM-based career than millennial respondents. With widening gap in the workforce, workers are increasingly looking to their employers to address upskilling needs. Close to 87% of Indian respondents said they believed companies should do more to train and prepare their STEM workforce, said the release.

Respondents also said more awareness and education were needed to boost careers. Most respondents (96%) in this fifth annual survey said they considered STEM education important to the country's future.

However, half the respondents said STEM careers continued to experience a gender gap, with women lagging behind. Creating an environment where everyone was encouraged to pursue STEM can help address this



FILE PHOTO USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

perception in India – and contribute to growing the global STEM workforce, said the release.

Of the women who said they were not encouraged to pursue STEM careers in India, 41% attributed this missed opportunity to stereotypes that STEM careers are for men, and 44% highlighted a lack of female role models in the field.

Empowering more qualified workers of both genders

to explore a STEM career could have a significant impact on the workforce gap, said the survey.

Emerson is helping to address the skills gap issue for people of all ages through investments in employee training, its "We Love STEM" initiatives, and partnerships with more than 350 universities and technical colleges, including academic institutions in Pune, Chennai and Mumbai, the release added.

## NEWS BYTES

### Philanthropy conference

UC Web, on behalf of Alibaba Foundation, is hosting the global sub forum of '2019 Alibaba Philanthropy' on September 5 in New Delhi. The keynote session will focus on the theme 'Power to Empower', outlining how Internet as a 'power' can 'empower' everyone by providing them with equal opportunities for learning.

### HR excellence award

Genius Consultants is inviting nominations for the '9th Genius HR Excellence Awards 2019'. According to a press release, there are 19 awards to be bagged from three categories. This includes Lifetime Achievement Awards; Individual Special Awards for CEO with HR Orientation, CHRO of the Year, HR Leader of the Year, Women Achiever of the Year, HR Professional of the Year; and Organisational Awards for Best HR Practices, Best Training Initiative, Innovation in Recruitments, Innovative Retention Strategy, Best Innovative HR Technology and Dream Employer of the Year. The last date to submit nominations is August 31. For details, visit [www.products.geniusconsultant.com/gos/others/Commanpage.aspx#catawa](http://www.products.geniusconsultant.com/gos/others/Commanpage.aspx#catawa)

# Meet the new hiring manager

Artificial intelligence is slowly but surely changing the face of recruitment

LIFFY THOMAS

**T**here has been a huge spike in the traffic to the 'careers page' of Genpact – in July-August 2019, it attracted 58,000 applications, as against 3,170 applications in the corresponding period last year.

And the lion share of the credit goes to a 'conversational bot', which seems to function with "a mind of its own", thanks to artificial intelligence-based technology.

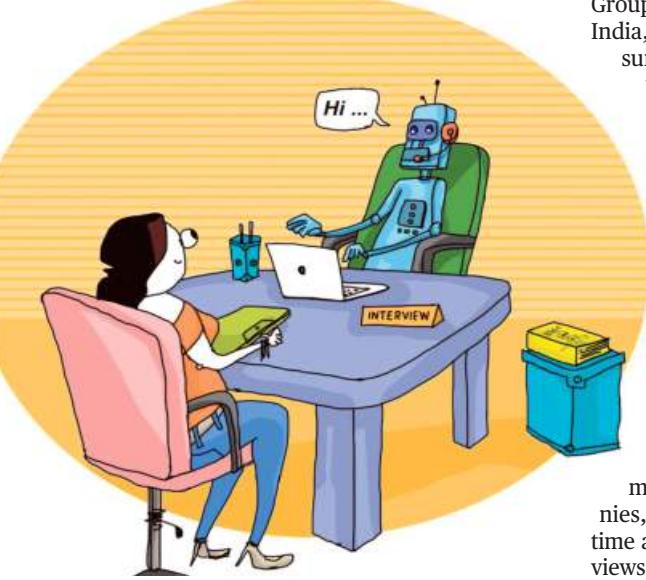
The bot takes the candidate-visitor to the career page through the vacancies at the company. Based on the candidate's inputs about their skill sets, experience and expectations, the bot launches an auto match and recommends jobs to the candidate. It then passes the information to the recruiter.

Akhilesh Nair, global recruitment leader, Genpact, says, "From 200 applications on our career page, if we are getting more than 1,000 a day now, it is because technology has converted passive browsers into active applicants by answering queries and finding the right role for the user."

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in hiring is still at a nascent stage in India, but it seems set for a quick growth.

According to a study by Mercer Mettl on "Tech Hiring

ILLUSTRATION: SREETHI RAVIKUMAR



and Technology Adoption trends 2019", Indian companies that use Applicant Tracking System (ATS) and AI tools have registered 69% success rate. Use of these tools has also helped reduce the average hiring time by almost a week.

**Background verification**

At Mindtree, around 20 bots run background-verification checks on resumes. The bots work with various applications, and their work includes downloading and sharing candidate details to initiate background checks, following up on the docu-

ments, updating records and sub-contracting the background checks. This work by the bots has reduced human errors and freed the recruitment division of monotonous, time-consuming tasks.

**Personality reports**  
Talocity, a Gurugram-based startup, works with large- and medium-sized companies, helping them save time and resources on interviews, in recruitment to certain jobs. With machine learning and AI tools, a personality report is generated for every candidate, and lets the company know of the candidate's suitability for a job. Ketan Dewan, co-founder, Talocity, says the platform identifies close to 48 attributes of a person, some of which are difficult for a human being to identify.

So, what's the future of recruitment?

Nair says AI will be used to augment existing recruitment processes and not replace them. The human-machine combination in recruitment is indispensable. Kanwal Kaul, director –

## GENERAL

### CORRIGENDUM TO ADVT. NO. 01/19 (FOR THE POST OF HEAD OF LAW)

The revised experience requirement: 23 years of post-qualification experience including at least 15 years in the executive cadre in the relevant area in a Govt. /Public Sector Undertaking or private company of repute.

The candidates who had applied against the original advt. will be considered against the revised experience requirement. Cut-off date for eligibility criteria & other details w.r.t. the post of Head of Law will remain the same as the original advertisement (Advt. No. 01/19). Interested candidates may apply by visiting [www.ntpcareers.net](http://www.ntpcareers.net) and last date for online registration of application is 16.09.2019.

**एनटीपीसी NTPC Limited**

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, Core-7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road New Delhi-110 003. Website: [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in)

### NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - 620 015, TAMIL NADU.

RECRUITMENT FOR NON - TEACHING POSITIONS

Advertisement No.: NITT/R/RC/NT/2019-02/01 Date: 27.08.2019 Online Applications are invited for Direct Recruitment to the posts of Librarian, Deputy Librarian, Senior Medical Officer, Senior Scientific / Senior Technical Officer, Scientific / Technical Officer. For essential qualifications, requirements and other information visit the Institute website [www.nitt.edu](http://www.nitt.edu)

Important Date:

Opening date of online portal	:	28.08.2019
Last Date for Submission of online application	:	25.09.2019
Last Date for Submission of hardcopy	:	01.10.2019

Registrar

Advt. No. - 18/2019

**INTEGRAL UNIVERSITY** INTEGRAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES & RESEARCH

Established under U.P. State Act No. 9 of 2004 (U.P. State Legislation) Approved by UGC under section 20 & 12B of the UGC Act 1956 Registered by Board of Governors (UGC) under section 12B of the UGC Act 1956

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Associate Professor : Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Radiology, Anesthesiology  
Assistant Professor : Medicine  
Senior Resident : Medicine, T.B. & Chest, Radiology, Orthopedics, Anesthesiology, Dermatology

Note: Interested candidates may apply before 7th September, 2019 by submitting their complete biodata in the office of the Registrar, Integral University, Kursi Road, Lucknow.

The candidate may also apply online on the following link:

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ADVERTISEMENT NO. CRPD/SCO/2019-20/21 dated 21.05.2019. The Criteria of Registration with Medical Council of India stands revised to Registration with Medical Council of India or State Medical Council. The candidates who have already applied for the post in response to our advertisement No. CRPD/SCO/2019-20/20 dated 21.05.2019 need not apply again and their candidature will be considered for the process.]

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BANK MEDICAL OFFICER (BMO-II)	Regular	MBBS with 5 Years' Experience or PG Degree with 3 Years' Experience.	56

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**Date For Filing Online Application & Payment Of Fee:**

27.08.2019 To 19.09.2019

For any query, please write to us through link "CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query" which is available on Bank's website.

(URL- [https://bank.sbi/careers](http://bank.sbi/careers) OR [https://sbi.co.in/careers](http://sbi.co.in/careers))

**Place:** Mumbai **General Manager (CRPD):**

**Date:** 27.08.2019

**General Manager (CRPD):**

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As per BOG/MCI norms

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**Sl. Post No.**

**Level/ Pay (as per 7th Central Pay Commission)**

**Vacancy/ Reservation**

1

MARKET WATCH		
Sensex	37,641	% CHANGE -0.39
US Dollar	71.48	0.75
Gold	39,670	0.00
Brent oil	58.67	-0.72

NIFTY 50		
Adani Ports	372.05	3.85
Asian Paints	1599.45	1.90
Axis Bank	682.95	-0.75
Bajaj Auto	2766.50	29.70
Bajaj Finance	7126.50	-64.30
Bharti Airtel	3357.75	33.50
BPLC	348.30	-12.35
Britannia Ind	2685.90	152.05
Cipla	465.35	-1.20
Coal India	191.85	3.10
Dr Reddy's Lab	2540.70	-26.50
Eicher Motors	15995.40	447.20
GAIL (India)	130.20	3.80
Grasim Ind	723.95	-13.35
HCL Tech	1093.10	0.25
HDFC	2174.30	25.95
HDFC Bank	2259.95	3.80
Hero MotoCorp	2614.45	23.50
Hindalco	181.20	2.45
Hind Unilever	1861.40	-15.15
Indiabulls HFL	471.50	-16.25
ICICI Bank	418.60	6.95
IndusInd Bank	1386.10	37.60
Bharti Infratel	245.05	-0.40
Infosys	784.65	-17.90
Indian Oil Corp	125.75	0.25
ITC	245.50	3.00
JSW Steel	213.40	-0.70
Kotak Bank	1501.55	-11.25
L&T	1356.95	23.30
M&M	554.05	9.75
Maruti Suzuki	6277.75	22.20
NTPC	123.20	3.15
ONGC	125.60	1.85
PowerGrid Corp	206.55	3.65
Reliance Ind	1274.85	8.05
State Bank	285.70	5.50
Sun Pharma	416.75	-2.60
Tata Motors	120.35	9.80
Tata Steel	350.90	12.85
TCS	2236.50	-39.80
Tech Mahindra	676.35	-14.80
Titan	1123.70	21.25
UltraTech Cement	4135.70	97.30
UPL	556.00	6.20
Vedanta	138.10	3.05
Wipro	250.10	1.00
YES Bank	64.50	1.60
Zee Entertainment	363.75	-1.15

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees 3 unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 27		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	71.28	71.60
Euro	79.16	79.52
British Pound	87.50	87.90
Japanese Yen (100)	67.39	67.72
Chinese Yuan	9.96	10.00
Swiss Franc	72.76	73.10
Singapore Dollar	51.35	51.59
Canadian Dollar	53.87	54.13
Malaysian Ringgit	16.95	17.04

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI		
August 27 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses		
Retail Silver (1g)	50.....	(49.8)
22 ct gold (1g)	3680.....	(3685)

Source: Indian Bank

## Rupee gains most in five months against dollar

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The rupee gained 0.75% against the dollar on Tuesday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the government that will improve the fiscal situation.

The rupee closed at a one-week high of 71.48 against the U.S. dollar, up 54 paise over its previous close.

The RBI on Monday decided to transfer ₹1.76 lakh crore to the Centre – including an interim dividend of ₹28,000 crore paid in five months against the dollar.

The tax revenue assumptions in the FY20 Budget were fairly optimistic. This would have meant that the government would have to cut expenditure drastically towards the end of the year to meet the 3.3% of GDP fiscal deficit target. "The 0.3% of RBI dividend bounty is likely to give some much-needed breather in the fiscal math," economists at HSBC wrote in a note to its clients.

**Lower collection**  
Lower collection of direct taxes were also a reason for concern for the government in meeting its fiscal deficit target.

A report from Bank of America Merrill Lynch said the ₹1.76 lakh-crore figure is similar to the revenue at risk for the FY20 Budget. "How the government will use this amount is yet unclear," the report said.

The U.S. currency losing strength against major global rivals also boosted the rupee sentiment, dealers said.

Meanwhile, bond yields, that had dropped 9 basis points on Monday, ended 5 bps higher due to profit booking.

**Market Watch**

Low-cost carrier IndiGo is deliberating on the right formula which will make widebody aircraft a viable option for the airline, CEO Ronojoy Dutta said at its 16th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday.

"We are investigating it thoroughly. We meet every Tuesday to talk about the widebody. It is not an easy proposition. You do need a business class to make the widebody work. We cannot copy anyone because no one has succeeded in terms of widebody low cost," Mr. Dutta said. The airline is also ex-

pecting a 10% growth in revenues in the next five years," he said.

**Review capital framework every 5 years**

## Review capital framework every 5 years

Jalan panel for aligning RBI's accounting and financial years to cut need for paying interim dividend

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The Bimal Jalan Committee, set up to review the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) economic capital framework, has suggested that the framework may be periodically reviewed after every five years.

"Nevertheless, if there is a significant change in the RBI's risks and operating environment, an intermediate review may be considered," the report, which was made public on Tuesday, said.

The panel recommended to align the central bank's accounting year with the financial year which could reduce the need for paying interim dividend.

"It could reduce the need for interim dividend being paid by the RBI. The payment of interim dividend may then be restricted to extraordinary circumstances," the report said.

For 2018-19, the RBI had paid ₹28,000 crore as interim dividend.

**Market Watch**

State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) are set to increase the prices of petrol and diesel with effect from April 2020 to recover over ₹30,000 crore of investments made by these firms in upgrading their refineries to meet the BS-VI standards.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) chairman Mukesh Kumar Surana told *The Hindu*, "Upgrading to BS-VI was part of our expansion project in our Mumbai and Visakh refineries. Upgrading to BS-VI comes at a cost. We have invested close to ₹5,000 crore for upgradation to BS-VI. Besides, we need to incur additional operating expenses to run those units as we need to produce hydrogen. We will try to get a compensation."

State-owned OMCs had so far invested over ₹30,000 crore in upgrading their refineries to produce cleaner BS-VI fuels after the government

**Slowdown talk exaggerated, says SBI report**

**Market Watch**

A report from State Bank of India (SBI) questioned the 'exaggeration' of the current slowdown as it said that changing customer preferences, base effect and global factors were leading slower growth in sales in the auto and fast moving consumer goods sectors.

While acknowledging that the economy was undergoing a slowdown, Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI, said it is not all doom and gloom in the FMCG sector, where the volume growth decline of listed companies in the first quarter of the fiscal has

been cited for growth slowdown. "Interestingly, it is pertinent to note that volume growth was dismal, mostly negative for major companies in Q1 FY18 due to which growth in Q1 FY19 was

much higher, thereby making the volume figures in Q1 FY20 appear weaker," Mr. Ghosh said in the report.

He argued that one of the reasons for a downward bias in the data could be the

change in the behavioural pattern of consumers, who are leaning more towards herbal and ayurveda oriented personal care products in the unorganised or small business segments, which is not formally captured by the data survey teams.

"With increasing tilt towards e-retailers, consumers are now also buying bigger packets and thus the demand for smaller sachets is declining," the report said.

On the auto sector slowdown in India, the report said, it was a part of the global crisis that was unfolding.

The author predicts Q1FYGDP to be at 5.6% with a downward bias.

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## IN BRIEF

Infosys closes ₹8,260-cr. buyback offer

NEW DELHI  
IT major Infosys has bought back 11.05 crore of its shares under its ₹8,260-cr. buyback offer that began in March this year. "... The company bought back 11,05,19,266 equity shares at an average price of ₹747.38 per share and deployed ₹82,59,99,430.03, deploying 99.999999% of the maximum buyback size (excluding transaction costs)... till August 26," Infosys said. •PTI

## Indian Bank opens MSME processing centre

CHENNAI  
Indian Bank has geared up for speedy disposal of micro, small and medium enterprises' loans with the opening of its first MSME CPC (centralised processing centre) in the city. MSME CPC will also give a boost to its MSME portfolio, said the bank. K. Chandra Reddy, field general manager, Chennai, said that the bank had deployed skilled manpower in the CPC to improve credit quality and shorten transaction processing time.

## Rupa to boost sales of womenswear segment

KOLKATA  
Rupa & Company, a knitwear manufacturer, is eyeing higher turnover from its Softline brand under which it retails womenswear. Innovation and a refreshed digital presence are the two prongs of its strategy to increase the brand's contribution from the current 7% of turnover to about 13% by 2022. By this time, the company's revenue is projected to almost double to ₹2,000 crore from ₹1,108 crore currently.

# Fault lines exposed in MF industry: Tyagi

In pursuit of high yields, fund houses have made risky investments, says SEBI Chairman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Lack of self-discipline by fund houses, pursuit of high yield at the cost of prudent investment and mixing investment with lending had a cascading effect on the mutual fund debt schemes after a few issuers defaulted on their payment obligations, said Ajay Tyagi, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Addressing an event organised by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the SEBI Chairman said that in a span of two months – September and October 2018 – assets under management (AUM) of debt-oriented schemes fell by 18% and that of money market schemes by 25% despite the fact that the total exposure towards



Red signal: A certain element of self-discipline by the industry could have averted such a situation, says Ajay Tyagi. •PTI

stressed securities of all schemes was a mere 1% of the total AUM of debt-oriented schemes.

"A certain element of self-discipline by the industry could have averted such a situation...

said Mr. Tyagi.

"The events in the last year... exposed the fault lines in the industry and showed that a credit event in even one issuer/group could have a contagion effect leading to liquidity risk across the market," he added.

### Liquid schemes

The SEBI chief further said that a regulatory analysis of liquid schemes showed that in at least 20% of the instances, the average holding in liquid instruments was less than 5% of the AUM even as the average net redemption in such schemes was around 19%. The last one year saw issuers such as Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL)

and Essel Group, among others, default on their payment obligations towards mutual funds.

"The recent events also threw into the spotlight several risky investments made by the industry in the quest for higher yields.

"The safety of the investment cannot be compromised for want of higher yields," he said.

Referring to some of the structured deals that a few mutual fund houses entered into with promoters of business houses, the SEBI Chairman said that there was a clear distinction between lending and investing. "We ought to remember that it takes years to build trust in an industry and only a single event may erode it," the SEBI Chairman concluded.



Kitchen to vehicle: Domestic LPG is taxed at 5% while auto LPG is levied 18%. •RITU RAJ KONWAR

## High taxes leading to domestic LPG diversion'

Gas used to power vehicles: IAC

TCA SHARAD RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI

The Indian Auto LPG Coalition (IAC) has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying the current manner in which auto LPG is being taxed under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime is creating an incentive for people to illegally use domestic LPG as auto fuel.

While domestic LPG is taxed at 5%, auto LPG is levied 18%.

"Providing policy-level support and enabling a quicker growth of environment-friendly fuels is an imperative now," the letter said. "Impact of health costs on GDP for developing nations like us are well acknowledged.

### Policy-level support

"In this regard, we seek an urgent policy-level support from you to address key issues which paradoxically do not align with Prime Minister's vision and efforts to provide a cleaner, breathable air to the populace of our country," the IAC said.

The IAC said given the low base of auto LPG adoption in the country right now, simple policy support would affect the govern-

ment's revenue only nominally, but would provide a big boost to the sector.

The letter calls for a reduction in tax rate on LPG conversion kits to 5% from the current 28%. It also asked for bringing auto LPG under the 5% slab from the current 18%.

"Also, with domestic LPG taxed at 5%, there is a key incentive to illegally divert domestic LPG to automotive purposes," the letter said.

The IAC says that auto LPG is considerably cleaner than petrol. While it has similar levels of NOx and carbon monoxide emission, it emits less than half the particulate matter that petrol does. The industry body also says that auto LPG emits less than half the particulate matter emitted by CNG.

"Auto LPG typically costs 40% lesser than the price of petrol and hence, offers an extremely attractive and immediately-available solution to vehicle owners," the letter said. "Unlike CNG, auto LPG can be successfully installed in two-wheelers also. Emissions from two-wheelers rank right on top, in terms of its contribution to the urban air quality issues, because of the high particulate matter emissions."

## EESL to invest 180 crore in 'super-efficient' ACs

Firm eyes sales of 2 lakh ACs by 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Energy Efficiency Services Ltd. (EESL), a joint venture between four public sector enterprises under the Union Ministry of Power, plans to sell 50,000 air-conditioners under its super-efficient AC programme (SEAP).

"In the first phase, we plan to sell 50,000 ACs on a first-come, first served basis. It is expected to save 27 million kWh of electricity per year," said S.P. Garnaik, chief general manager (technical), EESL. "The approximate investment will be ₹180 crore. It would be partially supported by a grant from the Global Environment Facility," he said.

After completion of the

pilot phase, EESL plans to sell two lakh ACs by 2021 through a business model targeting both residential and institutional consumers on a pan-India basis.

Mr. Garnaik also announced the launch of super-efficient ACs in Chennai and said they would be priced at ₹41,300, including GST and would come with a one-year free warranty. Manufactured by Voltas, they would be sold exclusively through eesmart.in.

"Over the past one month, we have already received 10,000 registrations on our website. We plan to sell 10,000 ACs in the next three months and another 40,000 in next 6-8 months," he added.

## Harley-Davidson unveils its first BS-VI bike at ₹5.47 lakh

Company also showcased its electric vehicle, LiveWire

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Sajeev Rajasekharan, MD, Harley-Davidson India, unveils the firm's electric motorcycle 'LiveWire' at New Delhi. •PTI

in India, also launched a limited edition of the Street 750 with India-inspired graphics. Only 300 units of

this edition will be put up for sale. Harley-Davidson did not disclose plans for bringing LiveWire to India.

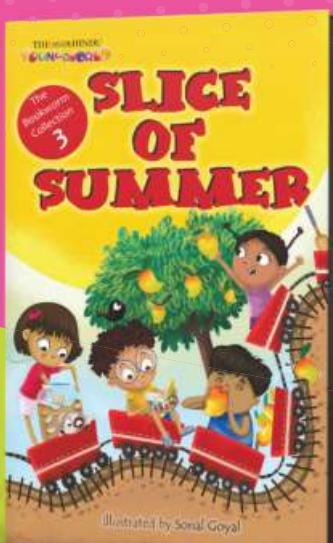
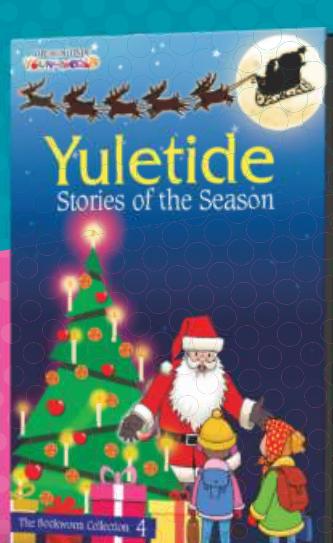
### Limited edition

The firm, which has completed 10 years of operations

## SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS FROM THE HINDU GROUP



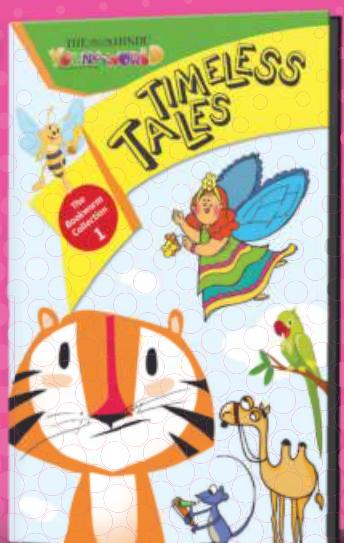
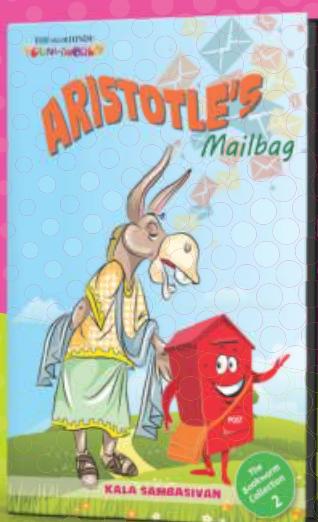
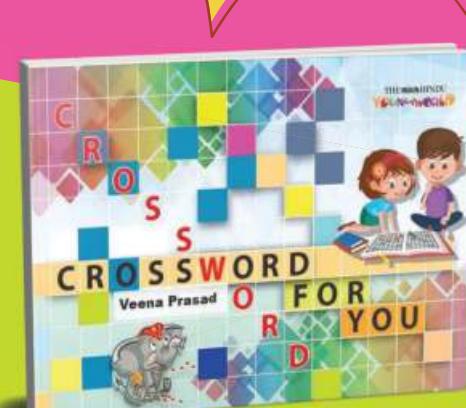
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**JAYANTHI SOMASUNDARAM**  
In a quiet neighbourhood in San Jose, California, a young Mexican boy opens rice and *dal* bags. He apportions them onto 150 containers using an automatic weighing and dispensing machine; then soaks them in water. Another operator, cleans the rice and lentils, and loads them onto the 34 custom made stone wet grinders.

"There are 25 employees who work here, and they can pronounce the names of Indian food and ingredients more articulately than I can," smiles Mani Krishnan, founder and president of Shastha Foods, which makes 12,500 kilos of fresh idli and dosa batter every week. With this batter, approximately 100 million dosas have been served across the US, over the last 16 years. "Let's simplify that further," he adds. "Every minute, four containers of Shastha idli or dosa batter are being sold across the US."

Hailing from Kadayan village, Thirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, Mani recounts that when he decided to start this business in 2003, "There were already players in the market. I think the system that I created, helped me maintain quality, ensure consistency in delivery and also scale up. I am proud to say that it is Indian technology at work in the US."

Prior to becoming a foodpreneur, he'd managed a profitable business selling Intel processors, mother

## Bring home the BATTER

Every day, fresh batter for spongy idlis and crisp dosas makes its way across the West Coast of the US to homesick Indians, and Americans enamoured by this gluten-free, vegan treat. A man from Thirunelveli is behind it all

boards and hard disk drives to Indian organizations for 18 years. "I had 25 offices in India. However, that business went South and I came to a point where I had to re-build my life from scratch. I was in my 40s by then."

**The genesis**  
Using his experience in import, Mani brought filter coffee powder to America. "We stumbled upon the idea to sell idli batter in 2003; we didn't do a formal market study but we made an observation. It was the phase when there was a steady rise in Indian nuclear families in the US and people had no time to buy the rice, soak it, grind it and allow it to ferment." In the beginning, Mani would grind the batter using the Ultra.5 litre grinder and deliver the containers to Indian stores in San Jose. To-



**On the grind** According to Mani, four containers of the batter are sold every minute across the US  
• GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK, MY FRIDAY FOOD SWINGS

day, his batter is in 300 stores across the West Coast. "I envision batter to be distributed the same way we get our milk every day," he says. The first batch was delivered in his car. As the company grew, they acquired a refrigerated cargo van. "Soon, we outgrew that and we invested in small refrigerated trucks. We now use three small 14ft refrigerated trucks and a cargo van because we need to drive through city roads and smaller neighbourhoods," he says.

says, of the seven-days-a-week delivery.

The first five years, Mani faced challenges which were beyond his kitchen. "There were restrictions on the import of the two main ingredients required to make the batter: rice and *dal*. At one point, I was buying rice from Africa, Dubai and USA. Once you are in production, you need to supply; stopping is not an option," says the 66-year-old, who holds a Masters in Accounting from the University of Bombay.

The heart of Shastha's operations is a 7,000 square foot spotless kitchen with several stone grinders in stainless steel drums, which have been customized to work in rhythm. Mani and his friends brainstormed to create a process flow for the plant to minimize overall movement. "I learned that one cannot come up with a 100 percent accurate design in the initial stage itself. As the business grew, we had to make minor modifications to meet the new challenges," he says. The 100% organic products launch in 2017, is an example. "I had to make minor modifications without disrupting the production of the other 13 varieties of batter, and still launch the line."

**Rise of the millets**  
Though it sounds uncomplicated, most people still find it a challenge to make idli batter that results in the softest idlis, every single time. "Processes can be automated," he says.

ed; the quality and consistency can be maintained only by human intervention. We process small batches. Our batter is a combination of rice, *urad dal* and salt. We don't add any other ingredients." Along with his wife Anandhi, Mani experiments with the batter at home, sharing it with colleagues and friends for feedback.

"Our idli and dosa batter are still the most popular and fastest selling product line. However, batters like the brown rice dosa, oats dosa, quinoa idli, millet dosa, adai, pesarattu are also doing well," says Mani. He has been given the go-ahead for his vegetable idli batter from his circle of friends, and it will soon be in production. "My future plan is to grow the non-idli dosa batter business; which is primarily millets."

A believer in word-of-mouth advertising, he actively supports Indian events at the Bay area. His idlis are served at gatherings of the Tamil Mandram, at the Spring Festival, Concord Murugan Temple and Livermore Temple. "The goodwill has carried us through. The community and Indian grocery stores have supported our journey."

Mani says he is keen on introducing a robot, which will pack 25 containers of batter within a minute. "Robotics will increase productivity and efficiency. I don't have to constantly ask my team to spend less time on their phones!" he jokes.

## PEOPLE

### A book for your order

This cafe in Saket is trying to get people to read, by giving away a book with every order



As you enter The Nerdy Indian Cafe in Saket, you'll notice wooden tables with comics under their glass tops. Embedded into the predominantly wooden interiors is a book shelf on the wall, with a few hundred books.

When 31-year-old friends Ayush Chaudhary and Vishal Kochhar thought of opening a cafe, they figured it might as well be one that gives away books for free with every order. It was after attending a series of book readings together that inspired the concept behind The Nerdy Indian Cafe. Chaudhary focused on the cafe's design, while Vishal concentrated on the menu.

The dishes range from Crumby Palak Patta Chaat (crispy spinach leaves, topped with *aloobhajiya*, pomegranates, served with sweet curd, coriander and tamarind chutney) to Tandoori Chicken Popcorn (morsels of tandoori chicken double coated with seasoned flour, deep fried, served with mayonnaise and Schezwan dip).

With a minimum food order of ₹500, the cafe gives away a free book. In just under a month, the duo claims to have given away close to over 650 books. Depending on whether you love fiction or non-fiction, you can choose a book from their tall wall-shelf. There is no return policy.

634, Lane no.3, Saiyad ul Ajaib, Saket; ₹900 for two

TANISHA GUPTA

## PRODUCE

### Flower power

Fiorella has just launched its Concierge Service, a flower subscription that ensures you have fresh flowers around your home or office. There are weekly, monthly, and quarterly packages to choose from, with a range of options. In the premium range, you can have a discussion with the head florist about preferences.

₹2,500 upwards (delivery charges extra),  
instagram.com/ fiorellalaini

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

## FOOD REVIEW

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

It's just another restaurant-and-bar in yet another mall in Gurugram. There's really nothing to distinguish La La Land Brew Pub from that one place you had an office party in a few years ago, and probably kept going back to only because it's conveniently located near both your workplace and your preferred form of public transportation back home.

That doesn't mean there's anything wrong with La La Land (other than the fact that the place has close to nothing to do with Damien Chazelle's 2016, musical, despite an intro online saying it was inspired by it).

Just that it gets lost in the crowd, trying to be everything for everyone. Finger food? Check. Standard Continental? Check. Beer? Check. A generic bar menu with classic cocktails and other liquor? Check. Standard Chinese?

## In the land of the ordinary

Yet another everything-for-all, with a brewery thrown in

Check. Some generic desserts? Check. (Except, some aren't available.) Trying to woo you with its misleading name? Check.

That said, if you're really looking, there are a few mild surprises on this menu.

**The vibe:** If I stretch to see a link between the film and the place, it's in the wide semi-circular vinyl booths, probably reminiscent of a jazz bar. The lights are dimmer than they need to be, especially for a Saturday afternoon, and the music is – yes, you guessed, not jazz. American pop from the late '80s and '90s plays loud, with the big screen TV flash-



ing an 'English music' channel on mute. This non-synchronicity aside, the staff is courteous and in command of their menu, and say that the place fills up in the evenings, with neighbouring office-goers coming to unwind.

**Do try:** The Yam Galouti, which fully uses the creaminess of mashed-up Yam. It makes for one of the softest vegetarian galouti around. The Spinach & Curd Kebab is a good variation of the standard dahi kebab. The Creamy



Orange Fettuccine Pasta has just a hint of citrus in a regular-looking creamy white sauce. Definitely try the Dum Ka Bharwan Karela. With the vegetable being one of the most unpopular, especially at an after-office sort of place, chef

**Do try** Yam galouti, Dum Ka Bharwan Karela  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ashok Chandola unsurprisingly said it's probably the least ordered item on the menu. But its sweet-tangy gravy is comforting and filling.

**Skip:** The chicken breast that's cooked sous vide and has nothing

really interesting about its flavours. The naans are tough and dry, with daal that did nothing, though was presented well. Their beers are mediocre at best – the German Wheat was too light and watery, the Irish Stout a decent average, and the Mango beer, a slightly confusing surprise. Maybe it made me nostalgic for the old Mango Bite candy, but I was unsure of how this can carry through the winter months, especially since the staff say there are no plans yet of replacing this with a new brew. Their basil-infused LIIT was a disappointment: regular LIIT with huge sprigs of basil dunked in.

**Go with:** An extremely entertaining group of colleagues, because nothing else might really excite you here.

**Space bar:** 8,000 sq ft carpeted area, with 230+ seats (they have a 350 capacity)

**How much?** ₹2,200 for two

**Reach:** A 7-minute walk from the Sector 42-43 Rapid Metro stop; just cab it.

## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



**TALK**

**Seminar**  
Ambika Vishwanath, Co-Founder & Director of the Kubernein Initiative, an India-based geopolitical advisory, will deliver a lecture titled, *State of Water Politics between India and China: Questions of Development and Cooperation*. The talk will focus on the state of the water politics between India and China.

**VENUE:** Institute of Chinese Studies, Civil Lines

**TIME:** 3 p.m.



**EXHIBITION**

**Mixed-media**  
*The Nature of Things Death and Dualism in Indian Villages*, is a solo show of paintings and photographs by Indian author and artist, Dr. Kota Neelima. As an endeavour to assist the families of farmers in distress, Dr. Neelima's work on display focusses on the condition of women farmers on the peripheries of society.

**VENUE:** Visual Art Gallery, IHC

**TIME:** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



**FOOD**

**Fitness menu**  
The Artful Baker has launched a healthy menu for fitness enthusiasts. Curated by its in-house chef, the menu has a selection of freshly prepared salads, juice mixes and cookies and cakes. The dishes on offer include Bean Sprouts, Kalamata Olives, Roasted Chicken, Cranberry and White Chocolate Chip Cookies.

**VENUE:** Vasant Vihar and Khan Market outlets

**TIME:** 8 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.



**ART**

**Paintings on paper**  
*Balagan in Metamorphosis & Other Stories*, showcases works on paper by Ruchika Wasan Singh at Shridharani Gallery. Curated by Manuela De Leonidas, the paintings are created in traditional inks such as sumi-e, on a variety of handmade paper. The works portray organic forms strongly connected with nature.

**VENUE:** Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg

**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



**GIG**

**Rock 'n' roll**  
The Piano Man is hosting rock-and-roll band BlockJane live tonight. Formed in 2013, their genres include Blues, Jazz Fusion, Alternative, Rock & Roll. Inspired by outfits like Jim Morrison, Dire Straits, Pearl Jam, the band features Ajoy Tiwari on the guitar, Monikongkona 'pepe' Kakati on vocals, and Prijio Samuel on the drums.

**VENUE:** The Piano Man, Sector 15, Gurugram

**TIME:** 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



NIKHIL BHATIA

The XL6, to put it simply, is a more premium iteration of the Ertiga, and Maruti has done quite a bit to give the car its own identity. It's more rugged in looks, so to speak, with generous amounts of cladding to go around. What also adds some distinction to the XL6 is its redone front end, with a raised bonnet line, larger grille and unique-to-the-model full-LED headlamps, giving it a more of a crossover look.

The cladding gives mass to the design, but there's a clear visual mismatch with the wheels. The 15-inch rims, finished in black, just look puny under the exaggerated wheel arches; 16-inchers with chunkier rubber would have done wonders for the XL6's stance. Roof rails, a rear scuff plate and the dual-tone tail gate are elements exclusive to the XL6, but to the untrained eye, it'll be hard to tell one from an Ertiga, at least from the sides and rear.

On the inside, the XL6 feels like the premium Ertiga it is. Sure, the dashboard and even the dials are carried over from the Ertiga, but the XL6's all-black interior theme does give it a more upmarket look. The faux black ash wood finish, leatherette upholstered seats, and even the knitted roof lining are other elements that uplift the experience. Front seat comfort is good even if the leatherette seats are slightly firmer than the Ertiga's fabric seats.

Of course, among the main talking points in the XL6 is its middle row. Out goes the Ertiga's bench and in come a pair of individual captain's chairs. The mid-

## Maruti Suzuki XL6 builds on the Ertiga

Priced from ₹9.8-11.46 lakh, the XL6 range starts where the Ertiga range tops off



row seats are easy to get into and you have the option to slide them further back to make ingress-egress even easier. Seat comfort is largely good too, though taller occupants will find it a bit lacking. The seats recline to a fair degree as well, but you can't adjust the position of the armrest, which is a bit of an irritant when you want to sit back and relax. What are also missed are sunblinds for the massive rear windows. Still, it's a nice place to come to after a long day at the office.

As on the Ertiga, the XL6's mid-

litres to a useful 550 litres. However, the XL6's middle seats don't fold flat as the Ertiga's.

On the equipment front, the XL6 does get some additions over the Ertiga, such as the LED headlights, cruise control, leatherette seats and Maruti's new SmartPlay Studio infotainment system, replete with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. You can also add in Suzuki Connect as an option, which brings in e-SIM-based connected tech with features such as geofencing and real-time driving alerts. The XL6 can be had in two trim options – Zeta and Alpha – with the leatherette seats and a reverse camera exclusive to the latter.

If you've driven a petrol-powered Ertiga, you've driven



**Strong foundation** The XL6, to put it simply, is a more premium iteration of the Ertiga

• OMKAR DHAS



### SPECIFICATIONS

**ENGINE** 1462cc, 4-cyl, petrol mild-hybrid

**MAX POWER** 105hp at 6000rpm

**MAX TORQUE** 138Nm at 4400rpm

**HYBRID TYPE** Integrated starter generator

**GEARBOX** 5-speed manual/4-speed automatic

**WEIGHT** 1180-1190kg

**LENGTH** 4445mm

**WIDTH** 1775mm

**HEIGHT** 1700mm

**WHEELBASE** 2740mm

**GROUND CLEARANCE** 180mm

**BOOT CAPACITY** 209-692 litres

The XL6. Maruti hasn't tinkered with the BS-VI-compliant 1.5-litre petrol engine, which continues to feature mild-hybrid tech, with an integrated starter generator and a secondary lithium-ion battery pack providing some assist under heavy acceleration.

Initial responses are good, and if you hold gear, you'll also appreciate the borderline sporty top-end. What's more, the engine also sounds quite throaty above 3,000rpm. However, the mid-range is flat, so you'll have to shift down a gear if you want a quick overtake.

There is fair power for driving with a full load, and cruise control helps maintain a steady clip, too, but drivers used to torquey turbo-diesels will find pulling power a little lacking.

The 5-speed manual gearbox is easy to use and the clutch is well-weighted. On offer is a 4-speed torque converter automatic. The unit is likeable, shifting smoothly in town driving. Pressing down harder on the accelerator has the gearbox drop down a ratio or two, and it gets the engine all riled up, often when you don't want it to. The automatic's average fuel economy is also a bit of a downer.

The XL6's low-speed ride comfort is good, with the suspension rounding off the bumps with ease. Large potholes do thud through into the cabin at high speeds but, like the Ertiga, the XL6 feels surprisingly well planted out on the highway.

The steering is also one of Maruti's finer efforts of recent times, with a good deal of weight to it. However, there's quite a lot of road noise at 80kph and upwards in the cabin, and this detracts from the premium feel the XL6 is trying to establish.

Priced from ₹9.8-11.46 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), the XL6 range starts where the Ertiga range tops off. The petrol-manual XL6 Zeta costs about ₹20,000 more than the comparable top-spec Ertiga ZXi+, which makes it a fairly good deal. The petrol-manual Alpha trim (₹10.9 lakh) is a touch pricey, and there's a significant premium to pay for the autos (₹10.36-11.46 lakh) too. That said, with the majority of Ertiga sales concentrated at the top-end, Maruti shouldn't find it too hard to convince buyers to upgrade to the XL6.

The XL6 builds on the Ertiga's strong fundamentals and adds in a fair dose of premium-ness to the package. Practical and reasonably upmarket too, the XL6 sure has its charms. It's a pity Maruti's brilliant in-house 1.5 diesel is not an option. That would have only added to this very capable and competent MPV's appeal.

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



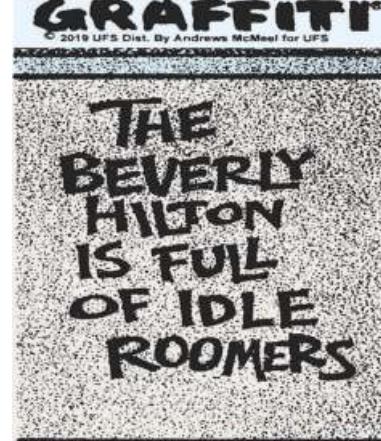
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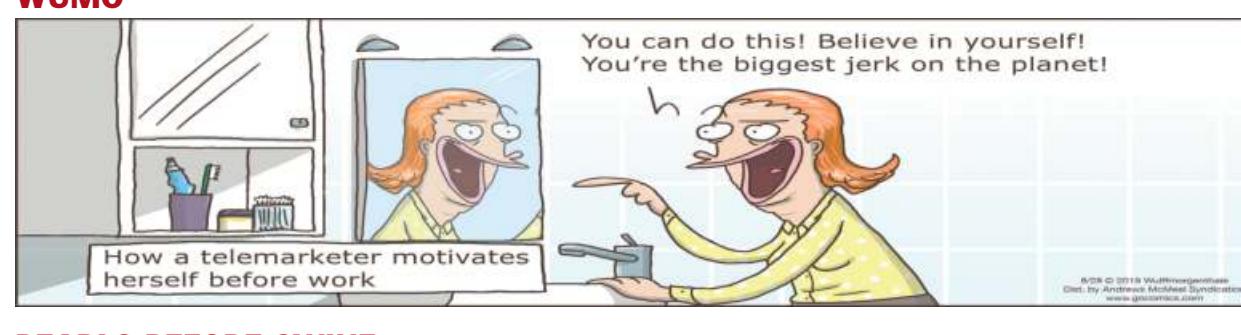
### TIGER



### GRAFFITI



### WUMO



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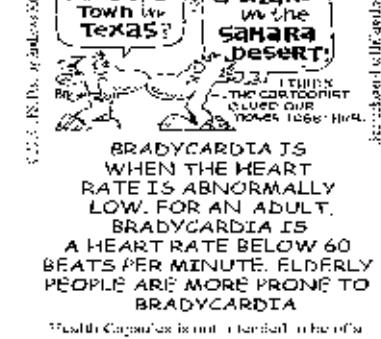
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of a crowd scene (5,7)  
4 Locomotive (6)  
6 Caribbean country (5)  
7 Colouring substance (8)  
8 German Protestant theologian, d. 1546 (6,6)  
12 Highly desirable or alluring (2,3)  
15 Eight-limbed cephalopod (7)  
16 Soft and soothing (6)  
18 Lively dance, originally from Bohemia (5)  
19 Bauxite, haematite etc (4)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated August 29, 2019.

Solution No. 13159

### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



■ Across  
1 Opinion sampler (8)  
5 Sound of a heavy fall (4)  
9 Scoundrel (5)  
10 Igneous rock (7)  
11 Cats in litter (anag) – unspecific personality disturbance (8)  
13 Bereft child (6)  
14 Something unique (3-3)  
17 Forever (2,10)  
20 Hazel nut (7)  
21 Abnormally active (5)  
22 Gather a crop (4)  
23 Resinous (anag) – woodwind player (12)  
1 After-dinner wine (4)  
2 Fielding position (3,4)  
3 Extra on stage as part

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# Final phobia a thing of the past: Sindhu

The World champion calls triumph a collective effort, says she will start preparing for Tokyo 2020



**Golden girl:** P.V. Sindhu with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju, coaches Gopi Chand and Kim Ji-Hyun, and her father P.V. Ramana. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## BADMINTON

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

P.V. Sindhu, fresh from her World championship triumph, said her ultimate target is the 2020 Tokyo Olympics gold next year.

Speaking at the Gopi Academy here on Tuesday, Sindhu said she was relieved to go all the way after losing two consecutive finals.

"Yes, many talked about the final phobia, but now that is a thing of the past and I will start preparing for the Olympics in right earnest," she said.

"I have been waiting for this gold for long and it was the result of the collective effort of everyone, including Gopi sir, Kim Ji-Hyun and others at the Academy. This performance is not because of my efforts only," said Sindhu.

### Felt no pressure

"I believed in myself before the final, came back stronger, took it like any other match and learnt from my mistakes. I am glad I played really well, didn't think of the losses in the past, and felt no pressure at all," she said.

"Some meditation classes recently helped me stay calm in crunch situations," revealed Sindhu.

### Confidence

"When I look at the Olympics, this means a lot in terms of confidence and to be moving forward even as I am conscious of the very tough competition in the circuit where you have to keep strategising every two minutes on the court because you will be up against different players with different styles," she explained.

"I will be acquiring new skills and be much better prepared for the bigger challenges," added Sindhu.

Sindhu also lauded Praneeth for his stupendous show. She said he played really well, terming the performance a "big feat."

She wished Praneeth would go on to win more laurels.

### Biggest dream

Chief National coach P. Gopi Chand said Sindhu winning the gold at the World Championships was his "biggest dream" and he was delighted that she pulled it off on the biggest stage.

"I must say we badly need-

ed this, especially after Sindhu lost two finals. It was a classy victory," said Gopi.

He felt that Tokyo 2020 will be different for Sindhu compared to the 2016 Rio Games as she will be a more marked player and needs to keep improving," he said.

### Inspirational

"It was also a pleasure to watch Manasi Joshi win gold in the Para Worlds at the same venue and other Indians bag medals in this category.

"Very inspirational performances from them indeed," he said.

"I must say we badly need-

ed this, especially after Sindhu lost two finals. It was a classy victory," said Gopi.

He felt that Tokyo 2020 will be different for Sindhu compared to the 2016 Rio Games as she will be a more marked player and needs to keep improving," he said.

"We have a very good bonding that is really helping me to get real good results," she said.

# Here to produce champions: Kim

Bonding has helped get good results, reveals the Korean

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

"I am not here to make money, but to produce champions," says Korean Kim Ji-Hyun, former Asian Games gold medallist and now credited for playing a key role in P.V. Sindhu winning the 2019 World championship badminton gold in Basel (Switzerland) last Sunday.

"I would have left my job here (with Sports Authority of India at the Gopi Chand Badminton Academy here) if I were not enjoying it. And, also I make it a point that every one of my trainees enjoys their role," she told *The Hindu* in an exclusive chat on return her return to *The Hindu*.



Korean coach Kim Ji-Hyun with P.V. Sindhu. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

skills for the good," she added.

"Before the final, I just reminded Sindhu that she had beaten Okuhara in the recent past and all that she needed was to stay focussed and not think too what is going to happen in the final," the Korean coach recalled.

### Pleasure to work

"It is a pleasure to work with these Indian players who are all responding to my training method. It is sometimes boring, like any other job. So, I try different things to keep them relaxed and be mentally fresh for the challenges ahead," Kim said.

"Definitely, it is important to maintain the kind of fitness, form and consistency Sindhu showed in the World championship. And it is a long, long way still to go before the next Olympics," she cautioned.

"On working with Gopi, Kim said she was pleased with his style of functioning. "When there is scope for creating ideas, you will enjoy that job more and that's what I am doing now," she said with a big smile.

"There will be pressure on me too as coach because of the expectations but like the players themselves, I have to be ready for any task," she concluded.

"I am over the moon definitely after the World championship gold. Now the emphasis will continue on improving on every aspect – physical, mental and skills as always – for you can't afford to relax in the run-up to Olympics," she said.

"We have a very good bonding that is really helping me to get real good results," she said.

"One thing I can say is that Sindhu is made to believe in herself more, even while she works on the need to cut down on the negatives. She is a champion player and all that she needed is some fine-tuning," Kim said.

"There is definite change in her attitude and

# There was no extra pressure and I played like in any other championship, says Sai Praneeth

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

Sai Praneeth, who won the men's singles bronze medal in the recent World championship in Basel, says it could be the beginning of a new chapter in his career.

"Obviously, it (bronze) means great to me," he said at the Gopi Chand Academy where he trains.

"There was no extra pressure and I entered this event like any other championship. But, I am happy with the end

result," he said on Tuesday. "Definitely the Arjuna Award gave me that extra motivation in the Worlds but again it is never easy to compete at that level. But beating Christie was something special which I cherish," he said.

On P.V. Sindhu winning gold, Praneeth felt that once she beat Tai Tzu the confidence was up not only for her but for the entire continent that she could just pull it off.

"It was a fantastic finally

from Indian point of view," he said.

"From India in men's singles only two will be selected from India for Olympics if you are in the top 16 and so the competition is really tough among ourselves," he said with a smile.

"This time I got enough time to prepare for the Super Series events and also for this World championship and so the training sessions have really helped me," he said.

"Now, the focus is on im-

proving my all-round game and fitness levels," Praneeth said. "It is more of endurance and intensity training now and this is good for us," he added.

"There are so many tournaments and you just can't

focus only one event for you have to keep an eye on the World rankings to stay in the race. You have to be consistent to be in the race for an Olympic medal which is the biggest goal I am chasing now," he concluded.

# Nagal rattles Federer with a gutsy display

Takes a set before succumbing in four; Serena routs Sharapova; Djokovic cruises

## US OPEN

PTI, REUTERS  
NEW YORK

The fighting spirit shone through in Sumit Nagal's dream Grand Slam debut as he took a set off the iconic Roger Federer before fizzling out at the US Open, here on Monday.

In a much-anticipated clash, the 22-year old lost 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 after giving a glimpse of his talent at the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Nagal became only the fourth Indian – after Somdev Devvarman, Yuki Bhambhani and Saketh Myneni – to win a set in the main draw of a Grand Slam in the last 20 years.

Nagal, who made the main draw through qualifying, returns from the Open not only richer by \$58,000 but also with the experience of what it takes to compete at the biggest stage.

Federer endured a shaky start to the match but for Nagal it was the best he would have felt on a tennis court.

The Indian stunned the



**Showcasing his talent:** Not overawed by the occasion, Sumit Nagal uncorked some fine shots against Roger Federer on Monday. ■ AP

crowd by breaking Federer's serve in the third game with the Swiss committing a double fault on the second breakpoint.

While a "rusty" Federer was still measuring up his newest rival, Nagal, with his deep returns, was setting up winners – some eye-catching inside-out forehands.

While many would not have expected such a sight, Nagal further shocked the

crowd when he broke Federer for the second time and served out the set after being down 0-30.

### Fearless play

Hitting deep returns and going for his shots fearlessly and not allowing Federer to come on to the net were key to Nagal's first-set exploits even as the Swiss struggled to contain his unforced errors. Federer had 19 un-

forced errors to nine of Nagal in the opener.

The anticipation grew but Federer shook off the rustiness to dismantle Nagal's game after that. He began serving well, if not his best, and dictated the play with his strong returns, killing points at will at the net.

After taking the second and third set with ease, the Swiss was serving for the match in the 10th game of

the fourth when he went down 0-40 with Nagal making some solid returns. After saving five breakpoints, Federer closed the match with a strong serve on Nagal's backhand.

There were no problems for Novak Djokovic, who began his title defence in style with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 win over Spaniard Roberto Carballés Baena (Esp) 6-4, 6-1, 6-4; 23-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Jannik Sinner (Ita) 6-3, 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-3; Relly Opelka (USA) bt 11-Fabio Fognini (Ita) 6-3, 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3; 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Sumit Nagal (Ind) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; 25-Lucas Pouille (Fra) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 15-David Goffin (Bel) bt Corentin Moutet (Fra) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; 12-Borna Coric (Cro) bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-0.

## IMPORTANT RESULTS

**Men:** Mikhail Kukushkin (Kaz) bt Roberto Bautista Agut (Esp) 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 3-6; 22-Marin Cilic (Cro) bt Martin Klizan (Svk) 6-3, 6-2, 7-6(6); 1-Novak Djokovic (Serb) bt Roberto Carballés Baena (Esp) 6-4, 6-1, 6-4; 23-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Jannik Sinner (Ita) 6-3, 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-3; Relly Opelka (USA) bt 11-Fabio Fognini (Ita) 6-3, 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-3; 3-Roger Federer (Sui) bt Sumit Nagal (Ind) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4; 25-Lucas Pouille (Fra) bt Philipp Kohlschreiber (Ger) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4; 15-David Goffin (Bel) bt Corentin Moutet (Fra) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; 12-Borna Coric (Cro) bt Evgeny Donskoy (Rus) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-0.

**Women:** 1-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Anna Blinkova (Rus) 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.

Venus Williams (USA) bt Zheng Saisai (Chn) 6-1, 6-0; 20-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Coco Vandeweghe (USA) 7-6 (4), 6-3; 10-Madison Keys (USA) bt Misaki Doi (Jpn) 7-5, 6-0; 8-Serena Williams (USA) bt Maria Sharapova (Rus) 6-1, 6-1; 29-Hsieh Su-Wei (Tpe) bt Jana Cepelova (Svk) 6-4, 5-7, 6-3; 22-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Tamara Zidansek (Slo) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

**Osaka battles hard**

Meanwhile in the women's draw, top seed and defending champion Naomi Osaka of Japan had to battle hard to beat the unseeded Russian Anna Blinkova 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-2 and reach the second round. Osaka hit eight aces and 44 winners but also made 50 unforced errors.

In another highly anticipated match, eighth Serena Williams trounced old foe Maria Sharapova 6-1, 6-1 in the first New York meeting between two of the sport's biggest names to get her quest for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title off to a flying start.

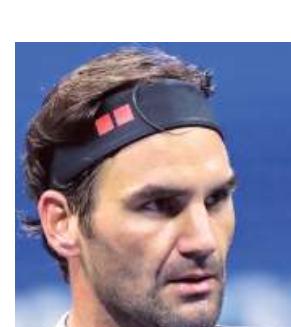
The on-court interview following the match witnessed a funny moment when Brad Gilbert asked Federer if he had imagined Rafael Nadal instead of Sumit Nagal.

"If you look up at the

scoreboard, we change the 'G' and add a 'D', did you think for a second that it was Nadal," asked Gilbert.

"No," said a smiling Federer. "But may be for you guys and the social media it is," he added with a laugh.

# Nagal will have a solid career: Federer



"I thought I played like my beard, rusty"

ROGER FEDERER  
on his show against Sumit Nagal

did well, I started thinking too much. Things change in a matter of seconds and that's what happened.

"He [Federer] is always making you think. You have no idea where the next ball is going to come. I have never had that feeling with anybody else I have played," Nagal added.

After the promising effort, Nagal, ranked 190 now, stated that he was aiming to crack the top-100 in order to play the ATP Tour level events more regularly.

**Challengers for now**

"Challengers is not the place you want to be for the rest of your life," he said. "You just want to do your job and get out as soon as you can. But it's just going to be Challengers until I break into the top-100. I want to do it this year. I have a few clay challengers lined up. That's what I am chasing."

# I try not to get affected by criticism'

It was satisfying as I had to grind a lot, says Rahane on his century

## INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NORTH SOUND

India's Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane, who withstood intense pressure to score match-winning knocks in the first Test against the West Indies, said he made a conscious effort to ignore criticism directed at him for not reaching three figures in the last two years.

**Subject of debate**

Coming into the Test series, Rahane's form was a subject of widespread debate but he silenced his critics with scores of 81 and 102 in India's 318-run win over the West Indies here on Sunday.

"I try not to get affected by criticism as it is unwanted and I can't control it. You are always happy when you make a hundred," Rahane

told fellow-Mumbaikar Rohit Sharma in a chat aired on 'bcci tv'.

</

# Stokes is the 'Special One' for England

I intend to call him that for the rest of his career: Botham

## THE ASHES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON  
The accolades keep coming for Ben Stokes after his astonishing match-winning innings in the third Ashes Test against Australia with icon Ian Botham anointing him English cricket's 'Special One'.

Until Stokes lit up Headingley on Sunday with his series-saving 135, Botham's titanic 149 not out in the second innings of the 1981 Test against the Australians had been the benchmark.

A full 28 years later, Stokes' unbeaten knock secured England an unlikely one-wicket win in the third Test and in the process kept the Ashes alive by levelling the series at 1-1.

Botham, who is chairman of Durham where Stokes plays his county cricket, told the *Daily Telegraph* Stokes's bold performance against the odds had earned him the special sobriquet.

### In the oven

"He is the 'Special One' and I intend to call him that for the rest of his career," said Botham, 63. "He wants to be the best. He wants to be in the oven."

"It wants to be in the hot test place in the kitchen and he wants to take them all on. That is his character."

Botham's innings in 1981 after England had to follow on transformed the outcome of the match and trans-



**Legendspeak:** Ian Botham believes that Ben Stokes has written himself into the history books with his superlative performance at Leeds. ■ GETTY IMAGES

formed the rest of the legendary all-rounder's life.

"It changed my life overnight," said Botham. "I think Ben's life will be the same. He will have no private life. He has to get used to that and so do the family."

### Public property

"He is public property but it is a great place to be in for the long term. It will set him up for life."

"He will reap the rewards which he richly deserves and

he is now a world, box-office attraction."

Stokes, writing in the *Daily Mirror*, said he does not expect life outside the sport to change too much, saying his wife Clare, a school teacher, and two children, six-year-old son Layton and daughter Libby, four, are his rock.

"Clare has been brilliant and so supportive throughout the years," said the 28-year-old all-rounder, who was born in New Zealand but

moved to England aged 12.

**Grounded**  
"Getting home with Clare and the family whenever I can is so important to me and now this game is done I just cannot wait to be back home for five days and cut the grass."

"I love playing cricket, but you need to be able to get away from the game and that is where your home and your family keep you grounded."

Botham – who also contri-

buted six wickets in the Australians first innings in the 1981 Test and a half-century in England's terrible first innings – would not compare his and Stokes's performances.

"I don't compare the two innings," said Botham.

"There were different circumstances, different conditions and a different pitch."

"I was just delighted to have witnessed one of the greatest events in cricketing history."

## Kotla stadium to be renamed after Jaitley

The ground will continue to be called Ferozeshah Kotla

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Ferozeshah Kotla will soon be renamed after Arun Jaitley, the former president of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA).

Jaitley, who passed away on Saturday, was DDCA president from 1999 to 2013 and was noted for his contribution to cricket in the Capital. The stadium was his vision and it was during his tenure that the renovated stadium became functional in 2005.

### Fitting tribute

Calling it a "fitting tribute", DDCA president Rajat Sharma made the announcement here on Tuesday. "The re-

naming of Delhi's famous cricket venue as Arun Jaitley Stadium will take place on September 12 at a function where a stand of the Kotla ground will be named after India captain Virat Kohli as announced earlier," Rajat Sharma said.

He also clarified, "The stadium has been named Arun Jaitley Stadium but the ground will continue to be called Ferozeshah Kotla."

He said, "what can be better to have the stadium named after the man who got it rebuilt in his tenure."

It was Arun Jaitley's support and encouragement that players like Virender Sehwag, Shikhar Dhawan,

Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra, Gautam Gambhir, Aakash Chopra could make India proud."

Jaitley is credited with transforming the stadium into a modern infrastructure.

He increased its capacity to help fans get improved amenities.

"Jaitley gave the stadium world-class dressing rooms and other cricketing facilities," said Rajat Sharma.

The function, to be held at the Weightlifting Auditorium, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, will be attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the chief guest, and Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju as the guest of honour.

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## TV PICKS

**PKL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**KPL:** Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.  
**US Open tennis:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.30. p.m. & SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 8.30. p.m.

## IN BRIEF



## Facts distorted, says Sun Yang

SHANGHAI  
China's triple Olympic swimming champion Sun Yang on Tuesday described as "intolerable" the speculation surrounding him ahead of a Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) hearing into a murky missed drugs test. FINA agreed with Sun that testers failed to produce adequate identification or follow protocol, but WADA responded by taking the case to CAS. "Misguided public opinion has distorted the facts," Sun wrote on social media.

## Bhubaneswar gets provisional clearance for U-17 Women's WC

NEW DELHI  
Bhubaneswar became the first venue to get provisional clearance for the 2020 Women's U-17 World Cup football, on Tuesday. The final inspection will take place later this year, by which time, the venue has to be fully compliant. Based on the report, it will receive full ratification by FIFA and be confirmed as host city for the tournament.



## Murray wins first round at Challenger

NEW YORK  
Three-time Grand Slam winner Andy Murray cruised to an important win on Monday, not at the US Open but at a second-tier Challenger event against a teenager with just \$150 in career earnings. He swept past French 17-year-old Imran Sibile 6-0, 6-1 who only squeezed into the draw as an alternate on his professional debut.

## Unique Model Academy in final

NEW DELHI: Defending champion Unique Model Academy, Manipur defeated Estiqlal School, Afghanistan 4-2 via the tie-breaker in the semifinals of the Subroto Cup international football tournament for junior boys here on Tuesday.

In the other semifinal, Saidan Secondary School, Mizoram beat Betkuchi High School, Assam 2-1.

## Mysuru racing season from tomorrow

## RACING CORRESPONDENT MYSURU

The 2019 Mysuru racing season will commence on August 29 (Thursday) and conclude on October 30 (Wednesday). Racing will be conducted over 18 days with the Derby to be held on October 20.

Briefing the media here, the MRC chairman N. Nityananda said the renewal of the lease of the land of Mysuru Race Club was under the active consideration of the State government.

Stake money of ₹5.69 crore will be on offer for the season which will see over 500 horses from Mysuru, Bengaluru and other places participating.

**The racing dates:** Aug. 29, 30; Sept. 4, 5, 11, 12, 19, 20, 26, 27 Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11, 19, 20, 23 and 30.

## Archana runs to glory in 200m

Govindan Lakshman takes the honours in men's 5000m

## INTER-STATE ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN  
LUCKNOW

There was little expected in terms of results or stand-out performances on the opening day of the 59th Inter-State athletics championships here on Tuesday and little happened.

Even in events that were expected to produce some exciting contest, there was little to cheer.

Archana Suseendran, who set the track ablaze with a personal best of 23.18 seconds 10 days ago to be the fastest Indian over 200m this season, could only manage 23.39 seconds here. The 25-year old, though unhappy at her timing, was nevertheless satisfied.

"Given the weather, there was little time to recover between the heats in the morning and then the final in the afternoon. In fact, I was only expecting something in the 23.30-range since I could hardly sleep last night due to some health issues and so was not completely ready for the race," she said.

**No effect**  
Nevertheless, the 25-year old denied that lack of competition or big names had any effect. "I only look at my time,



**Another success:** Archana Suseendran, left, proved too good for the opposition in the 200m yet again. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in Patiala during camps also there are only 2-3 runners so that doesn't matter. But now I am looking forward to the Indian Grand Prix in Delhi next week," said the Tamil Nadu sprinter.

The closest contest was expected in the men's 5000m between former champion Govindan Lakshman and his successor Murli Kumar Gavit but it was not to

be. While Lakshman managed to regain the top spot in a time of 14:34.30, Gavit was way back at ninth spot almost 23 seconds behind, with neither coming anywhere close to their top performances.

## The results:

**Men: 5000m:** 1. Govindan Lakshman (TN, 14:34.30s), 2. Bugatha Srinu (AP, 14:35.30), 3. Man Singh (Utt, 14:40.63),

**Pole Vault:** 1. Jessan (Ker, 4.90m), 2. Ebin Sunny (Ker, 4.80), Bineesh Jacob (Kar, 4.80).

**Women: 200m:** 1. Archana Suseendran (TN, 23.39s), 2. V. Revathi V (TN, 23.59), 3. Dhana Lakshmi (TN, 24.22); **5000m:** 1. Parul Chaudhary (UP, 17:51.38), 2. Suriya Loganathan (TN, 17:51.88); **Arati Patil (Mah, 17:55.90); Hammer throw:** 1. Manju Bala (Raj, 57.71m), 2. Jyoti Jakhar (Har, 55.71), Anmol

Kaur (Pun, 54.85); **Discus:** 1. Navjeet Dhillon (Pun, 55.42), 2. Suravi Biswas (Ben, 49.44), 3. Pramila (Raj, 47.54).

**High jump:** 1. Athira Somaraj (Ker, 1.76), 2. Libia Shaji (Ker, 1.76), 3. Laimwn Narzary (Assm, 1.73); **20km walk:** 1. Soumya B

## No NADA officials!

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The opening day of the 59th Inter-State athletics championships saw no anti-doping officials in attendance. More significantly, there is little sign of any landing here any time soon.

The AFI had earlier claimed that a team of National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) officials would be arriving in the city on Wednesday. That, however, seems uncertain now. "You will get to know in due course, today perhaps there was no team," was all NADA DG Navin Aggarwal was willing to say about the absence of officials to collect samples on Tuesday.

When further asked about the officials arriving on Wednesday, as scheduled, he officials said.

Kaur (Pun, 54.85); **Discus:** 1. Navjeet Dhillon (Pun, 55.42), 2. Suravi Biswas (Ben, 49.44), 3. Sonal Sukhwal (Raj, 1.48: 40.12).

**Mixed 4x400 relay:** 1. Kerala (3:31.62s), Delhi (3:33.85), Maharashtra (3:37.47).

remained non-committal. "I cannot say anything about tomorrow but samples can be collected later also," he reiterated.

**Open invitation**  
AFI treasurer PK Srivastava said it was an open invitation to athletes to take banned substances. "When every athlete knows they will not be tested at such an important event, they are free to do whatever they want," he claimed.

Interestingly, Sports Authority of India officials were supposed to provide sample collection kits to the NADA team. "We were supposed to hand over the kits but no one turned up today. But they might be bringing their own kits," the officials said.

## Anand draws again

## SINQUEFIELD CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU  
SAINT LOUIS (USA)

Viswanathan Anand enjoyed a superior position against Shakhriyar Mamedyarov but couldn't gain more than a 47-move draw in the ninth round of the Sinquefield Cup chess tournament here on Monday.

While Anand was involved in a draw, two other overnight leaders – Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi – won to emerge as leaders. In the battle involving Ding Liren and Fabiano Caruana, the Chinese proved stronger in 57 moves. Later, in the tournament's longest game, lasting 132 moves, Nepomniachtchi played black and beat Wesley So.

**The results:** **Ninth round:** Viswanathan Anand (5) drew with Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 4.5); Ding Liren (Chn, 5.5) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA, 4.5); Wesley So (USA, 4) lost to Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 4) drew with Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 4) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 4); Levon Aronian (Arm, 3.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 4.5).

**10th-round pairings:** Karjakin-Anand; Aronian-Liren; Nepomniachtchi-Vachier; Carlsen-So; Mamedyarov-Caruana; Nakamura-Giri.

## Powar, India-A bowling coach for SA series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Former women's team coach Ramesh Powar has been named India-A bowling coach for the upcoming series against South Africa-A. "He has been appointed only for the South Africa-A series," a BCCI official said on Tuesday.

Powar, who played two Tests and 31 ODIs for India, was embroiled in a controversy late last year after he fell out with women's team player Mithali Raj when he was the head coach.

## Hyderabad on the ISL map

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

The football fans from the city of Hyderabad will have a club of their own to cheer for in the Indian Super League (ISL) from this season.

Vijay Madduri and Kerala Blasters former CEO Varun Tripuramani will be the new owners of Hyderabad Football Club (Hyderabad FC) in the ISL.

## Jangra scores hat-trick

scored one after the breather.

## SAFF U-15 FOOTBALL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Himanshu Jangra's hat-trick enabled India defeat Sri Lanka 5-0 and record its third consecutive win in the SAFF under-15 football on Tuesday.

Jangra scored twice and Mahesh Singh netted once as the host took a 3-0 lead at half-time. Jangra completed his hat-trick and Subho Paul

## Yuvansh advances

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GREATER NOIDA

Yuvansh Jain fought his way past Thero Motshubi of Botswana 13-11, 12-10, 12-10 in the final qualifying round of the under-11 boys' event in the 11th HCL Indian Open junior squash championship on Tuesday. **The results (final qualifying round):** **Boys: Under-13:** Ritwik Singh Bundela bt Rhan Gupta 12-10, 11-7, 11-4; Saarthak Bhargava bt Kavin Sod 11-8, 11-7, 11-6; Udit Mishra bt Abhiraj Singh 11-6, 11-9, 11-5; Kavya Anand bt Prakash Chand 11-1, 11-0, 11-8; SiddhARTH Bhandari bt Ishikaran Singh 11-5, 11-7, 11-4; Gurveer Singh bt Neel Paswan 11-7, 7-11, 13-11, 11-5; Aashik Pathak bt Abdulla Khalifa Saqer Khalifa (Qat) 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 11-5; Karan Yadav bt Ishaan Kumar Byreddy (US) 11-0, 11-3, 11-1.

**Under-11 (pre-quarterfinals):** Purav Rambha bt Arnav Khan-delwala 11-3, 11-3, 11-3; Shiven Agarwal bt Bishnu Nanayakkara 11-8, 11-11, 11-6; Krishiv Gupta bt Aryan Kapoor 11-3, 11-4, 11-6; Atulit Tripathi bt Aatik Yadav 8-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-2; Savir Sood bt Aarav Ahuja 11-3, 11-4, 11-1; Yuvansh Jain bt Thero Motshubi (Bot) 13-11, 12-10, 12-10; Rajveer Grover bt Manuth Dassanayake (Sri) 11-9, 11-5, 12-10; Ijaz Mohamed bt Rudra Pahani 11-4, 11-2, 11-4; Shiv Dev Mittal w.o. Suyash Chhokar.

Sunayna had the game, but often came in the way of her opponent and conceded many points to "stroke". "I am looking forward to a better season," said Sunayna.

The women's title was worth \$1083 and runner-up, \$684, before the tax deductions.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist badminton player N. Sikki Reddy was the chief guest and presented the trophies.

**The results (finals):** **Men:** Vikram Malhotra bt Aditya Jagtap 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5. **Women:** Menna Hamed (Egy) bt Sunayna Kuruvilla 11-9, 11-4, 11-6.

It was the first meeting between the two and Jagtap revealed a lot of respect for the senior player, whom he had admired as a junior before pursuing his education in New York. "I played well in the second game and had chances in the third," said Jagtap, who thanked the organisers for the event and said that it was a "privilege to play at home in front of so many juniors".

Congratulating Jagtap for a good match, Malhotra said he was happy to get back into the circuit after a lot of doubt. "I am very happy. I thank everyone, my family, coaches. My dad flew down to watch me for the first time, after the junior days," said the 29-year-old Malhotra.

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Sunayna had the game, but often came in the way of her opponent and conceded many points to "stroke". "I am looking forward to a better season," said Sunayna.

The women's title was worth \$1083 and runner-up, \$684, before the tax deductions.

Commonwealth Games gold medallist badminton player N. Sikki Reddy was the chief guest and presented the trophies.

**The results (finals):** **Men:** Vikram Malhotra bt Aditya Jagtap 11-6, 6-11, 11-6, 11-5. **Women:</**